

IN COLOUR

ABERDEEN TEAM GROUP**Focus on Derek Spence of Blackpool****SHOOT!**

16th APRIL, 1977

15p

Managers
John Bond
 (Norwich),
George Petchey
 (Orient),
Jimmy Andrews
 (Cardiff) and
Harry Haslam
 (Luton) on
**'MY BEST-
 AND WORST-
 BUY'**

Birmingham City's
 Trevor Francis hooks
 the ball past Leighton
 Phillips of Aston Villa.

**'AJAX GREATER THAN
 BAYERN MUNICH'**

declares West German ace
HORST BLANKENBURG

THE END OF ANOTHER TRANSFER SEASON

FROM the beginning of July until the March 10th deadline for transfers, clubs have spent around £6,900,000 on players, a very much higher figure than the 1975-76 season.

Since July, 1976, there have been 14 transfer deals of £100,000 or over; seven involving fees of over £200,000 and one of more than £300,000. That was, of course, for Malcolm Macdonald from Newcastle United to Arsenal. The exact figure was around £350,000. The next highest was Derek Hales' £280,000 move from Charlton to Derby County.

DEADLINE DEALS

Jeff Bourne (Derby to C. Palace)
Jim Brogan (Coventry to Ayr U.)
Laurie Cunningham (Orient to West Brom)
Gerry Daly (Man. Utd. to Derby)
Ray Evans (Millwall to Fulham)
Paul Gilchrist (Southampton to Portsmouth)
Allan Glover (West Brom to Orient)
Stuart Graham (Wolves to Peterborough)
Mike Green (Plymouth to Torquay)

(See managers below)

Ashley Grimes (Bohemians to Man. Utd.)
Ray Haywood (Shrewsbury to Northampton)
Jimmy Holmes (Coventry to Spurs)
Jim Holton (Sunderland to Coventry)
George Jones (Halifax to Southampton)
Pat Kruse (Torquay to Brentford)
Alan Lamb (Preston to Port Vale)
Gary Liddle (Leeds to Grimsby)
Teddy Maybank (Chelsea to Fulham)
Joe Mayo (West Brom to Orient)
Phil Nicholls (Crewe to Bradford C.)
Derrick Parker (Burnley to Southend)
Peter Storey (Arsenal to Fulham)
Peter Sutcliffe (Stockport to Port Vale)
Ray Train (Sunderland to Bolton)
Colin Tarrt (Port Vale to Chesterfield)
Willie Young (Spurs to Arsenal)

MANAGERS

Doug Fraser (sacked as manager of Walsall 7-3-77)
Dave Mackay (appointed manager of Walsall, with Des Anderson as his assistant, 9-3-77)
Mike Green (appointed player-manager of Torquay U. 9-3-77)
Hugh Fisher (Southampton, appointed pl. manager of Southport 10-3-77)

★ HEARTS have signed Ayr winger Malcolm Robertson for around £25,000. The Tynecastle club also tried to sign Motherwell's Bobby Graham but the deal fell through.

Meanwhile, Dunfermline, bidding for promotion to the Scottish First Division, have signed striker Jim Mullin from East Stirlingshire. He was formerly with Partick Thistle.

A VISIT FROM ST. MIRREN

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Steven Kelly was the cruel victim of a soccer thug (hooligan isn't a strong enough description) when he went along to support his heroes St. Mirren recently.

Little Steven was struck on the back of the head with a beer can and rushed to hospital in a serious condition. Fortunately, Steven is now recovering.

On the first Saturday he was allowed home from the hospital

Steven received a surprise visit from the St. Mirren boss and his players.

Here, young Steven sits on the knee of manager Alex Ferguson, proudly clutching a season ticket which the club presented to him.

Well done, all at Love Street. ● We just hope this story, which thankfully had a happy ending, will deter other so-called "fans" from misbehaving themselves at matches. Young Steven could have been an invalid for life!



Jimmy Holmes —
Coventry to Spurs.

ENGLAND's youth squad of 1969 have turned out to be extremely valuable company. Five of them have been transferred for around £750,000. Bob Latchford cost Everton the equivalent of £350,000; Q.P.R. paid £165,000 for Dave Thomas; Wolves £100,000 for Steve Kindon; West Ham £80,000 for Tommy Taylor and Sunderland £70,000 for Tony Towers.



Soccer stars look to the future

F.A. Secretary Ted Croker, who was himself a successful businessman, recently gave a lecture on the art of business management.

The attentive students were all professional footballers, who have been on an eight week course at the Northampton Polytechnic, North London.

Stars obviously preparing for new careers when their playing days finally come to an end are (from left): Keith Coleman (West Ham United), Barry Daines (Spurs), Sammy Nelson (Arsenal), Dave Clement (Q.P.R.), John Phillips (Chelsea), Micky Droy (Chelsea), Ted Croker, Davie Hay, John Dempsey and Peter Bonetti (all Chelsea).

Everton ordered OFF!

EVERTON's last training session before the League Cup Final against Aston Villa at Wembley ended in chaos — because of a games mistress at a nearby school.

Sheila Plant, games mistress at Croydon High School for girls, was so incensed when she saw the Everton players training on her sacred hockey pitch, she charged across the field and ordered the bewildered Everton players OFF!

"Get off," stormed Miss Plant warning household names like Duncan McKenzie and Martin Dobson that she had a first team hockey match due to take place ten minutes later.

"And replace the divots," she gave as a parting shot. Although Everton had been given permission to train on the pitch in the grounds of the Surrey hotel where they were staying, the players had apparently strayed on to the west end of the school hockey pitch.

Which Everton player was it, who, when told of the objector's name, queried: "Was she a Villa plant?"

● Barnsley full-back Barry Murphy was 27 before he won a regular first team spot, yet he has gone on to make more League appearances, around 450, than any other player in Barnsley's 79 year history.

THE decision of Dave Mackay to become Walsall's new manager in succession to Doug Fraser surprised many people in soccer.

His name had been linked with a possible return to Derby County, but Dave said: "I had been out of soccer for three months and the offer from Walsall was the first I had.

"I could not afford to wait in the wings forever. It is much better to be back in the game at any level."

At Walsall, the former Derby County, Nottingham Forest and Swindon boss has taken over a club which, unlike most teams, is very much in the black at the bank.

GUNNERS PIP SPURS



ARSENAL believe they have pipped their North London rivals Spurs for a player in the same mould as Liam Brady.

They have signed 15-year-old Dermot Judge from Dublin on schoolboy forms and predict a great future for him.

Captain of the Dublin Schoolboys team which won the Irish title last season, Dermot is on the short list for the Republic of Ireland schoolboys squad.

A midfielder, Dermot admits he once supported Leeds... "but not anymore!"

● Arsenal boss Terry Neill has promised to take his first team to Dublin for a special match as soon as commitments allow.

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

In 1974... David Webb said he wished to leave Chelsea and was dropped from the Chelsea side to meet Tottenham by manager Dave Sexton. Frank O'Farrell is the new team-manager of Iran. F.I.F.A. took no chance of the new World Cup being stolen, as was the case in 1966, only a replica was shown to a Press conference in London. The original was safely locked away in a Frankfurt bank. In 1975... It was not a good week for managers. Don Howe was told his contract at West Bromwich Albion would not be renewed at the end of the season and Howe decided to leave straight away. Former Liverpool star Ron Yeats was sacked by Tranmere Rovers and Workington dismissed their manager Colin Meldrum. Derek Dougan, Wolverhampton Wanderers star and chairman of the P.F.A. announced he would retire at the end of the current season.

In 1976... Crystal Palace just failed to be the first Third Division team to reach an F.A. Cup Final when Southampton beat them 2-0, with goals by Paul Gilchrist and David Peach in the Semi-Finals. So Southampton would now meet First Division Manchester United at Wembley in the Final. Bobby Moore decided to spend the summer playing for San Antonio in the United States.



'Terry Cooper—England's best full-back'

declares Jackie Charlton

WHILE England are struggling to find the right sort of blend to take them to the World Cup Finals next year, a man who has served them admirably in the past, is fighting his way back to top form.

Terry Cooper, (right) voted the best full-back in the 1970 Finals in Mexico, has found a new lease of life at Middlesbrough, and according to his manager Jack Charlton is "playing better than ever."

Cooper, who underwent the galling experience of nearly two years out of the game with a broken leg, and thought his career was over, has been a leading figure in Boro's push towards the top of the First Division.

Charlton extols his virtues with these words: "Terry Cooper is easily the best full-back in England at the moment."

"There must be room for him in the England side — he'd certainly be a plus and not a minus."

"Terry never played the game on speed. He relies on skill and know-how, and if we qualify for Argentina, I'm sure Don Revie ought to have him out there."

"I have known Terry for 15 years now, and I've honestly never seen him playing better. When we bought him from Leeds he was on the recovery from his broken leg. His skill has never been in question, and his attacking capabilities have always been acknowledged, but they've actually improved since he came to Ayresome Park."

"Terry is a quality player, and Don Revie knows him well enough, so there's no need to mark his card, but I'd love to see him back in the England team."

Cooper himself pays tribute to the men around him, who've helped his comeback to the game and top form.

"The youngsters in particular have done Boro proud, and I'm in such good form because everyone around me is playing well, too. The confidence is tremendous. I'm certain we can win something this season."

"My greatest wish is to qualify for Europe, because it will be something new for most of the boys and for the club. It's different and exciting. To play in Europe next season would satisfy me," says Terry.



★ WEST BROM manager Johnny Giles is tipping his defender Alistair Robertson for Scottish international honours.

The Albion boss said: "It is a great pity he is not Irish. He would definitely be in my Eire side."

Easter fixtures

There will be a full programme of Easter holiday fixtures in Northern Ireland, as the League Championship enters its final phase.

On Saturday (April 9th) title contenders Glenavon and Glentoran have testing away games at Coleraine and Ards respectively, while Championship rivals Linfield are at home to lowly Bangor.

Then, on Easter Monday/Tuesday, Glentoran travel to Seaview to play Crusaders, the 1975-76 winners; Glenavon entertain Ards at Mourneview Park, and Linfield, seeking their first trophy in two years, meet Distillery at Windsor Park.

ACE LION

MILLWALL midfielder man Terry Brisley would be delighted to see sponsored football come in on a regular basis.

The Lions have had two home matches sponsored this season. And each time the company putting up the cash have named Brisley man-of-the-match.

Yet most Lions' supporters claim he would be line for that honour every week as they watch Millwall making a strong bid to reach the First Division for the first time in their history.

Brisley, never able to establish himself at Orient, is producing the best football of his life.

● Third Division Reading are keen on 22-year-old Portadown striker Tony Bell, one of the most under-rated strikers in Ulster soccer.



★ Tim Brooke-Taylor, star of the BBC television series *The Goodies*, leaves no doubt who he supports.



WE THOUGHT it was a hoax when someone told us that floodlights were used a 100 years ago at Bramall Lane, home of Sheffield United. So we checked . . . and sure enough, two Sheffield Association teams played at the ground, under lights powered by Siemens accumulators, on October 14th, 1878!

United don't want Shilton!

MANCHESTER UNITED will not be bidding for the services of Stoke and England 'keeper Peter Shilton, as rumoured in some soccer circles.

Tommy Docherty recently announced reserve 'keeper Paddy Roche will be given the chance to establish himself in the side when Alex Stepney retires.

"Paddy is an experienced Eire international and has always been rated a good goalkeeper at the

club," said The Doc.

"His day must come because Alex is 36 on his next birthday. Paddy has been very patient. The least I can do is give him a chance."

"So United are not in the market for Peter Shilton or any other senior 'keeper."

"Mind you, if Paddy fails to take his chance, then it is a different kettle of fish. We would then have to buy."

☆☆☆ Soccer could return to Derry ☆☆☆



ASTON Villa's midfield star Dennis Mortimer has shown super form this season . . . thanks to his manager Ron Saunders.

Says Dennis: "Ron is the best motivator in the business. He makes you pull out the stops EVERY week, not just now and again."

"I feel I have made tremendous strides since joining Villa from Coventry. This is definitely the most successful season of my career so far . . . and it's all down to Ron Saunders."

MEADOWBANK THIS-TLE manager Alec Ness resigned recently after two seasons in the job. The

committee will now run the team along the same lines as Stranraer until the end of the season.

THE PROPOSED return of a Derry team, Derry United, to the Irish League could have a bad effect on League of Ireland club Finn Harps.

The Donegal club draw the majority of their players and most of their support from the Derry area and if United do get back into the Irish League then some of the Harps players might be tempted back.

Songwriter Phil Coulter, backed by local businessmen, hopes this will happen for the 1979-80 season.

Club chairman Coulter is the man responsible for trying to get senior soccer back to Derry.

● Football personalities from all over Ireland attended the Press gathering to announce Derry United's plans. Other well-known guests in our picture are Pat Crerand (left), Bertie Peacock (ex-Celtic and Northern Ireland), Fran Fields (centre, chairman of Finn Harps), Phil Coulter and Danny Blanchflower (right, Northern Ireland manager).

ELGIN CITY's Neil Cowie was the victim of an unusual booking during the Highland League club's Scottish Cup-tie against Rangers at Ibrox.

Cowie left the field during play to have his studs tightened and returned to have his name put in the referee's book for going off and coming back on without permission.

● FORFAR ATHLETIC'S player-manager Archie Knox's face must be as red as the club's new strip.

When he took over at Station Park Archie established a system of fines for any players sent-off or booked.

The first to pay? Archie himself, who was dismissed against local rivals Brechin City for arguing with the referee.

Slim-Line Campbell to boost goals-famine?

HUDDERSFIELD striker Bobby Campbell went on a diet recently to help the club's goal famine.

Campbell, the former Aston Villa player, who broke a leg last season, tipped the scales at 13st. 10lbs after his period of inactivity.

While he was out of action the Fourth Division club found goals scarce indeed.

That was enough incentive for Campbell to get back into trim, but he thought his figure should come down too, so he cut out a lot of his favourite food and became a regular attendee at the local sauna baths.

Town are now hoping that slim-line Campbell will help them climb back into the Third Division.

Four managers on 'MY BEST

GEORGE PETCHEY

(ORIENT)



he was a skinny boy, very erratic in his behaviour towards football and he didn't treat life or the game very seriously.

But now, he has developed into a highly-sophisticated professional footballer whom we sold to West Brom for £110,000 recently.

He now has great depths of character and you can see how far he has come. But it wasn't always that way and it was wonderful to see him get the right sort of attitude gradually and improve from then on.

My worst signing? I can't say I've ever really had any terrible buys. I've always got people to do a period of service to justify the fee before getting rid of them again. A lot of schoolboy prospects have disappointed me but the one that really comes to mind was Gary Hibbs.

Hibbs has now gone to Aldershot on loan, but at one stage I thought he would be a £150,000-plus footballer. He had England trials as a youth and he looked a very, very promising player until about six months ago. Then he went completely astray and lost it all.

He got involved in all sorts of things, started drinking and put on a lot of weight. He lost the skill he had and I could see it was no use keeping him.

Why it happened to a lad who was so nice and conscientious I don't know. Perhaps the pressure was on him to do better because

I'VE never had an open cheque book when it's come to buying players — I don't know what a £200,000 signing is! Seriously, though, I've always been involved in trying to find talented youngsters to improve and that's why the two players who fit these categories come from the younger generation.

It's funny really but the one who appeared to be my best signing turned out to be one of my worst. And the one who I thought would prove to be one of the worst, turned out to be just about the best. Sounds a bit Irish? Let me explain.

I've got a great deal of satisfaction from a lot of youngsters I've signed and then seen improve. But when I signed Laurie Cunningham



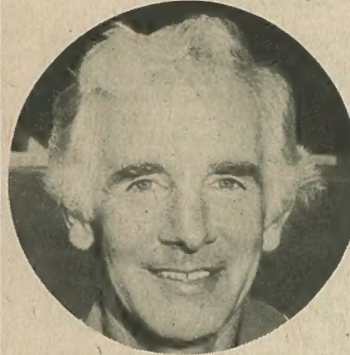
Laurie Cunningham (above) developed into a top-class player. Gary Hibbs (right) turned out to be a big disappointment for George Petchey.



his friends and mates from the juniors had got into the first team. But all he had to do was keep plugging away and he would have made it without doubt. Suddenly his character let him down and that was that.

JIMMY ANDREWS

(CARDIFF CITY)



In his first season here, Tony scored 31 goals and he's already got over 20 this season. Not bad for a free transfer. Blackpool obviously didn't think he would do it but I now rate him as a player of First Division class and ability.

He has been a fantastic capture for us and he is getting better all the time. He was ever so keen to do well for us and that's maybe why he has done just that. Whatever else, he's the best buy I've ever made in my career.

I count myself as pretty fortunate. I've only been a manager a little over three years and I've never really made a terrible buy. But I suppose the worst one I had was a fellow called Peter Jackson who joined us on a free transfer from Leicester.

He was a strong centre-forward and I had high hopes of him really making it and doing well. It's odd but I probably thought and hoped he would do what Tony Evans has done. But it worked the other way round.

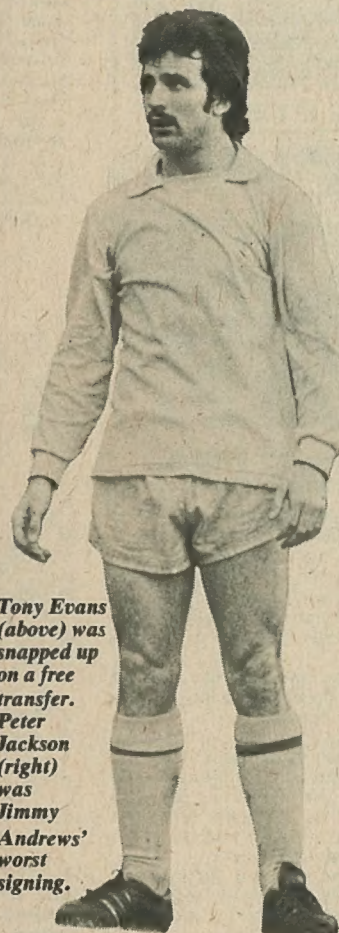
Jackson never settled down here; he wanted to live in Leicester and he was only with us for a few months. He had the ability to really make it, all right, but I think he preferred the idea of part-time football.

It was very disappointing because I had such high hopes of him. He had power, strength and was an excellent header of the ball. However, he thought there was too much time wasted in full-time

THERE'S no question as to who was my best-ever signing — Tony Evans, the lad I got on a free transfer from Blackpool last season. It was a strange affair and it involved my Midlands scout, Fred Whittle.

I was looking through the list of players available on free transfers and I was reading them out to Fred. When I said "Tony Evans, Blackpool," he replied "Are you sure?"

I read it again and he said "Grab him." I wasn't aware of Evans and I was inclined to hold on and wait. But Fred again said "Grab him" and I told him I would — but if it didn't work out as a good move, I'd sack him as a scout!



Tony Evans (above) was snapped up on a free transfer. Peter Jackson (right) was Jimmy Andrews' worst signing.



professional football and I don't think he really had his heart in the game.

He went non-League or packed up but he wasn't really with us long enough to decide either way. That's the sort of thing that happens. It was sad in a way but it's part of the game.

AND WORST SIGNINGS

HARRY HASLAM

(LUTON TOWN)



He was only 17 when he signed for us and £100,000 is a lot of cash for a lad so young. But I never really had any doubts he'd prove to be something really special.

Paul will go right to the top over a period of time. There is virtually nothing this lad cannot achieve if he keeps his head as I'm sure he will. He has got a great many attributes but the main one is this tremendous ability of hitting long balls from defence with accuracy into space. Anyone can hit a long ball from defence and not know where it's going. But Paul can send it to within inches of his target — a rare gift.

IF YOU'RE looking for a signing that has proved my point, Paul Futcher easily fits the bill. But another lad I'd put almost into the same category is Lil Fuccillo. Lil was virtually unknown when he came to us but he's come through very well.

It's an added bonus for a manager to see a player make it when he wasn't especially fancied to do so. Lil hasn't been a battler all his career but watching him graft as hard as anyone nowadays, is very satisfying.

I think I'd say Paul Futcher was my best signing, though. With him, it was a gamble as well as a signing because a lot of people who went to look at him sat on the fence and didn't go in. Now he has proved the point for me.

My worst signing? I always say the worst signing you make is the one you never get. I've been disappointed a few times but I wouldn't say who the players were. There's no point — I just let the matter drop if things don't work out.

But I suppose of the ones I have signed, Jimmy Husband has been rather disappointing. Mind you, he hasn't been a bad one and he is still doing things for us. When I signed him, I thought this lad would be outstanding.

I always thought he was capable of getting a lot of goals but he has never really done that consistently. That was a disappointment. Generally, I've been lucky — I can't say I've ever made a really diabolical signing. I just hope I don't in the future, either!

JOHN BOND

(NORWICH CITY)



they changed their views when they saw what sort of progress he was making. When Ted MacDougall and he started building a partnership, it took everyone in soccer by surprise.

They were a tremendous twosome and he learned a lot very quickly. Phil's great attribute is his ability to listen and take in what you were saying and then go out on the pitch and put it into practice. He improved rapidly and he is still getting better.

I'd pick two names as probably the worst, or the most disappointing buys of my career. One of them was Johnny Miller, whom I got from Ipswich, and the other was probably better known, Johnny Sissons.

I always thought Miller had an awful lot of ability but he didn't turn it on at all. Ipswich obviously knew more about him when they sold him than I did as the buyer. But I'd had a look at him and thought he was going to be a really good player. He proved to be a great disappointment.

He wasn't receptive to stuff you put on for him; he didn't get on too well regarding coaching and he didn't give the idea it was the be-all and end-all to him which it should have been.

He's now gone to Mansfield where he is doing better. But he never did it with us even though he seemed to have all the potential

THE BEST buy I ever made was probably one of the smallest in two senses — little Phil Boyer. Phil cost me £20,000 from York City when I was manager at Bourne-mouth; he cost me £145,000 when I brought him from Bourne-mouth to Norwich — and he's now got to be worth a minimum of £200,000.

Getting him for £20,000 was the real snip of my managerial career in the transfer market. A lot of people had gone to have a look at him — I wasn't the first by any means to take an interest. Everyone else seemed to be iffing and butting about him, whereas I plunged in straightaway. I'm glad I did — I've certainly never regretted it.

Many people thought £20,000 was a lot of money for him but



Undoubtedly, John Bond's best signing was Phil Boyer (above). His worst? John Sissons (far right).



to be a very good player. He just didn't live up to it.

The other name which was a bigger disappointment to me was John Sissons. I'd played with him at West Ham and I bought him from Sheffield Wednesday. I always felt John should have been the best left-winger anyone had seen in this country for the past 20 years. He didn't turn out that way and I still don't really know why. You looked at him and he had everything — but at the end of the day, he didn't quite produce it. That was immensely disappointing to me.



Boss Harry Haslam paid £100,000 for Paul Futcher (above) when he was a 17-year-old. Jimmy Husband (right) has not scored consistently for Luton.



GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!,
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£3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.
When writing to us please mention the two features you
liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from A. Whitten of Chelsea, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

MORE COMPETITION — LESS GLAMOUR

I have been watching soccer since the War days and I'm convinced we have better teams today.

The problem these days lies in the unnatural demands on the players' stamina.

Around 70 games a season for many, most of a highly competitive nature.

With all the television coverage and extra Cup games, there isn't any let-up.

The fans now demand success, not entertainment, and players have to think in terms of total commitment, not a showpiece for the supporters.

In the old days, we realised only one team could win the League so the other clubs knew they had to entertain.

Nowadays, there are so many competitions and entry-places to be won it's a failure if you lose out on any of these. Entertainment comes last.

But it's the fans who demand this at club level and you only get what you pay for.

● Also, three-up, three-down has made the relegation issue even more wide open than the Championship. It's not good for football to have so many teams in fear of the drop. It shows in their football which again often means a drop in entertainment level.

Pen-Pal

I'm a 24-year-old West German boy who supports Arsenal and Leeds. I'd like a pen-pal. I'm studying English and history.

ROBERT BRENDL,
MORENASTR. 6,
8000 MUNICH 60,
W. GERMANY.

Unfair

It is unfair Andy Gray should have been voted the Players' Player and Young Player of the Year.

Why should players under 23 have two chances to win?

MAY CHEUNG,
OLDHAM.

● I think Andy's well-deserved awards says much for his ability and contribution this season. Also, it highlights just how thin the League is on outstanding players.

Helpful Lee

We have always admired Gordon Lee's honesty and courage, especially when he was manager of Newcastle and sold Malcolm Macdonald.

The other Sunday, we were lucky enough to see Everton returning from Wembley and chatted with Mr. Lee for quite a while.

He was very helpful and although we support Manchester United and Liverpool (!) Mr. Lee was most friendly and open with us.

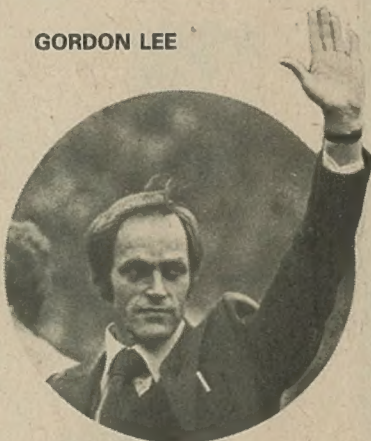
Managers like Gordon Lee prove you don't have to spend all the time criticising other teams and managers to succeed.

We hope he does well at Everton — he certainly deserves it.

M. ATKENS and friends,
HUXTON.

● With so much bickering going on, it's welcome to receive such a letter.

GORDON LEE



Sad Loss

How sad it was to hear of the death of Peter Houseman, the Oxford United star.

Thankfully, we have very few such instances associated with the game and I'm sure I speak on behalf of all soccer fans when I say what a tragedy it is to lose the former Chelsea star.

COLIN VICTOR,
SUTTON.

● Peter, 31, was one of football's nice guys as well as being a good professional. Our sympathies to Peter's family.

THE Easter break is make-or-break time for many clubs involved in going for Championships, promotion or relegation. With two games in four days, the pressure is screwed down hard.

For the fans it's a real bonus — but for players it can be a terrible strain and cruelly unfair.

After working hard to attain their end-of-season target — suddenly — wham! — two bad results will deal them a blow from which it can be almost impossible to recover.

A defeat on the Saturday can demand a win on the Monday, and with no time to patch up morale or mend injuries, the team's chances can be rock bottom. Unless, of course, their opponents are in the

the Championship or a U.E.F.A. Cup place next season.

This season London clubs have been well-represented "downstairs". I fully expect Q.P.R., with several games in hand over their rivals due to cancellations caused by their weather-damaged pitch, to survive, and Spurs look like continuing on their road to recovery, but I'm afraid West Ham are doomed unless some sort of soccer miracle comes to their rescue.

It's a tragedy, but no team has a right to First Division football. It's something that has to be earned every season. And rightly, too, otherwise the game would stagnate.

With two promoted sides amongst the strugglers, the pattern



Below Tommy Booth pursues Steve Heighway in last season's encounter.



'I'm keeping my fingers crossed for Pete Cormack and Bristol City'

same state.

Liverpool's main challengers, Ipswich, will probably feel the pace more than the rest of us at the table-top because they have such little reserve strength. Yes, I know about the talent their youth policy is bringing along, but it will be at least a season before the best of them are ready to be flung into the testing arena of First Division football. A youngster brought in too soon may find himself out of his depth, become disheartened, and never realise his full potential.

But it's the runners in the "relegation stakes" at the wrong end of the table who are likely to be worst affected by the Easter period. Losing First Division status is a far worse prospect than missing out on

is reverting to that I predicted, and which appeared until last season after the introduction of "three up — three down", whereby newcomers find it difficult to establish themselves.

Sunderland have staged a magnificent revival after a nightmare start which brought about the shock resignation of manager Bob Stokoe. New boss Jimmy Adamson was forced to take the gamble of bringing in youngsters — and amazingly it came off. Their enthusiasm rubbed on to old hands like Bobby Kerr, with the result that the team roared away to some high-scoring, headline-hitting wins that brought hope surging back into the hearts of the many thousands of Roker Park faithfuls.

keep up with
**KEVIN
KEEGAN**

Unfortunately, history is against Adamson's Army. No team with their number of points and games — they have played several more than the other relegation candidates — has ever dodged the drop before.

In the history books, there are countless examples of broken traditions — and Sunderland may well provide another.

If they do get relegated, though, they can take consolation from having a reorganised, youthful side playing well together and capable of bouncing straight back.

It happened to Manchester United!

For Sunderland, and Bristol City, Easter could be a turning point from which they go either up or down the table.

The odds are against City fulfilling my early season prediction that they would stay in the First — a prediction I made before my great Liverpool mate, Peter Cormack, joined them.

Pete put his finger on their big problem while we were discussing events on the 'phone the other

Now, back to the equally-tense, but more enjoyable, aspect of the League — the fight for the Championship.

Hardest thing for us at Liverpool is finding the motivation to win the Championship for the second season in succession. When you've won something once, it's always difficult to get fired-up to do it again. I suppose the thing that really spurs us on is the challenge of making it two titles on the trot, something very rare in our football.

And, of course, Liverpool pride is at stake.

Comparing this season's results so far with those of last season I notice we've lost more games, yet are still among the favourites.

Manchester City, whom I tipped as my "surprise" team to do well, have not disappointed me by getting up amongst the leaders of the pack.

Managed by their ex-player, stalwart Tony Book, they are a well-organised blend of youth and experience.

As regular readers will know, their Dennis Tueart is a great friend

of mine through being in the England squad together, and he and I have the same bet on the result every time our clubs meet.

A meal for four — ourselves and our wives — is the prize for whoever gets a win or an away draw.

Dennis still owes me for when Liverpool beat City away in January, even though I was at home injured, listening to the game on the radio.

Beating City at Anfield is a tradition I don't expect to be broken this Saturday. Since I began playing for Liverpool in the 1971-72 season, we have won on every occasion — 3-0, 2-0, 4-0, 4-1, 1-0, and I fully expect that at 4.40 p.m. Dennis will be owing Jean and I another meal!

Incidentally, Pete Cormack scored that goal against City last season.

Recent developments at Stoke at the Victoria Ground — where we play on Monday — make me confident that Easter will be a four-pointer and we'll finish ahead of the parade.

Without Alan Hudson, Mike Pejic, Jimmy Greenhoff — and Tony

'WHEN PLAYERS CAN ENVY THE FANS'



'Since I began playing for Liverpool, we've always beaten Man. City at Anfield'

evening. "They're a very good side," he said. "But unlike Liverpool, they are not used to the pressures placed on them in the First. They find it difficult to regain their confidence after a setback."

I'm keeping my fingers crossed for Pete and the City lads.

Derby's decline has got everyone baffled. How the Champions of the season-before-last can suffer such a drastic change of fortune is almost incredible. I'm told they haven't won an away League game for almost a year!

The shock resignation of Dave Mackay as manager — the attempt to re-sign Brian Clough in his place — the failure of big-fee man Derek Hales from Charlton Athletic to carry on scoring — and the transfer of Bruce Rioch to Everton!

All the signs point to something badly wrong at the club, and not necessarily on the playing side.



Waddington, their boss for the past 17 years — they are unlikely to prove to be a big stumbling block on our way to our second Championship.

Mind you, we shan't underestimate a side who still number some very experienced campaigners in their line-up.

While you fans are watching players perform, just consider what they are going through to bring you your entertainment.

Four days of training, travelling, and two games which can decide whether their fate is good or bad.

At times like this, a footballer can envy his fans!

Happy Easter.

Kevin Keegan

SPOTS
ARE MURDER.

New Cepton Zots spots!

Cepton Lotion and Gel work fast to kill spot-causing germs—then set up an “all-clear zone” on your skin.


An army of germ killers. Wipe on the Lotion. Dab on the Gel. New Cepton goes to work—killing germs and setting up an all-clear zone that lasts for hours and hours. That's why, when Cepton ZOTS spots, they stay zotted!

Something really different for really oily skin. Cepton Facial Scrub is a lathering cleanser you use in place of soap. It has thousands of deep cleansing dirt-seeking particles—their mild abrasive action really deep-cleanses oil and dead skin off your face, leaving skin amazingly soft, clean and healthy.



Spots are murder. So if you've got 'em—ZOT 'em. With the new Cepton skin range. Ask for it at your Chemist now!

Cepton

 CARE Laboratories
Badminton Court, Amersham, Bucks

'I'LL BE BACK!'

vows Hull's Dave Roberts, enduring a heartbreak season on the sidelines.

DAVE Roberts, Hull City's powerful 27-year-old centre-half, pledges: "I'll be back. Have no worries about that!" This has been a heartbreak season for Dave who has seen his career almost snatched away from him. Now the Wales defender is training like an Olympic marathon runner for another tilt at the top-class rating that was within his grasp.

Wales came away defeated from Ninian Park after the European Championship Quarter-Final against Yugoslavia in May, 1976, but one of the red-shirted home side emerged as man of the match: the resilient Roberts.

Time after time, he had repelled the brilliantly skilled Yugoslav raiders such as Surjak, Popivoda and Oblak. In those hectic, furious and often bitter 90 minutes, the flaxen-haired Roberts stayed cool, poised and looking the best equipped centre-half in British football.

His next game, on the opening day of this season, was a personal disaster. Against Hereford, the back trouble which had caused him mounting pain suddenly became unbearable. Medical room treatment was no longer the answer; it had to be surgery to keep his career alive.

Borrowed time

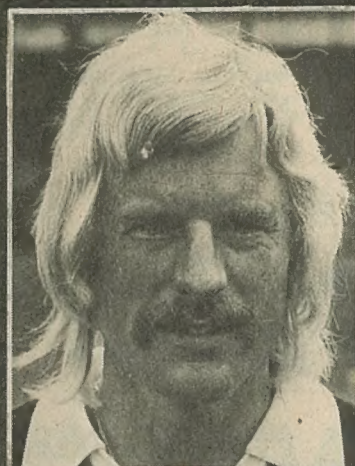
"One moment I had everything in the world going for me: the next, the prospect of — at the very least — months of empty Saturday afternoons. The surgeons opened me up and found that bones had snapped on either side of the base of my back.

"The one on the left hand side was starting to come together again in a natural healing process: the fresh pain had been caused by its opposite number on the right hand side coming apart.

"It hurt. Really hurt. But there was one consolation: I had been living on borrowed time. Now time had run out. This time it had to be something drastic."

Now, almost nine months later, Dave has been cleared to start training for his return. That means a lot of running. "I know how Brendan Foster must feel," cracks Dave. Long distance runs, ten lap runs, time trials and sprints. The fitness is returning and now I'm planning to go to America for the summer."

Hull manager John Kaye has gone along with the Roberts' plan. He is wanted by Chicago Sting, a side managed by former Manchester United and England defender Bill Foulkes. "We got to know each other when I was playing for Oxford and he was running nearby



Whitney Town in the Southern League. A summer with the Sting will bring me back in top shape."

But how dismal has it been for Dave, unable to help Wales in their opening World Cup games against Scotland and European Champions Czechoslovakia or to lead Hull in their ambition to bring First Division football to Humberside?

"There's been some bad moments. I remember feeling sick watching on T.V. as Wales played West Germany at Cardiff in the F.A.W.'s Centenary match. There were the fabulous players like Beckenbauer, Hoeness and Schwarzenbeck — and I should have been there playing against them.

"It is Saturday afternoons when it hits you worst. I was envious of every player able to kick a ball.

"Without my wife Teraza and our daughter Kristie and the lads at Hull, I don't know how I'd have got through it.

"I can't understand players who turn round and knock their clubs. I could not have been better looked after anywhere. They've granted every whim. The other day, for instance, our trainer Phil Holme — whose own career was ended by injury — came up to me after I'd been running on my own.

"He said 'Dave, because you're working on your own and the rest of us are training together, don't think we're not interested. We're with you every inch of the way back.' That was typical of the boosts I've been given."

But how bitter does he feel? After his superb display against the Yugoslavs, he should now have been at his best... one of the finest central defenders in Europe. "Bitter isn't the word. The amount of time I've spent in hospitals recently, I know there are many worse off than me. And I live off ambition. That's why, when I say I'll be back, I know next season I'll be delivering the goods!"

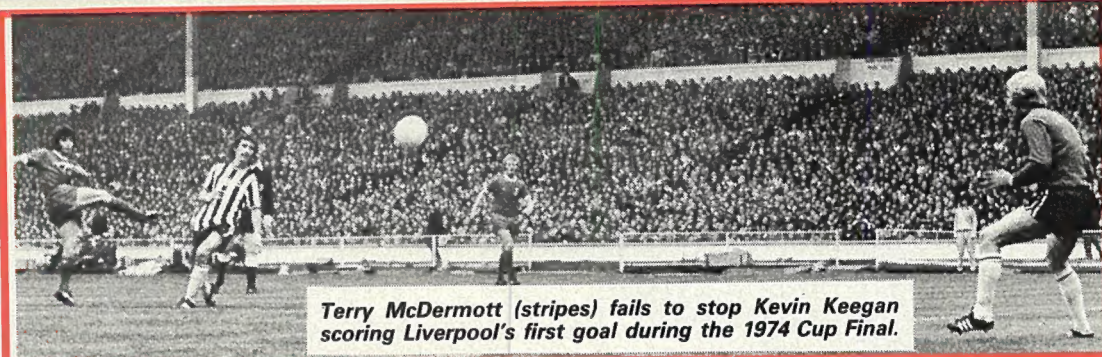
LIVERPOOL midfielder man Terry McDermott has had his fair share of ups and downs since his transfer from Newcastle United to the Anfield club in November, 1974. But now Terry can consider he has successfully served his "apprenticeship" before the Kop.

"The last two years have been very hard," says McDermott. "There were times when I was very discouraged, in contrast to my outlook today, when I'm enjoying my football again."

"I was happy with Newcastle, took a great liking to the people up there, and frankly, would never have left Tyneside for any other club but Liverpool. In addition to being born in this area, I've always thought Liverpool were the finest team in the country."

"But it took a long time to settle down, and playing as I was, fairly wide on the wing, I didn't really feel I was doing justice to myself or the side. I was playing too cautiously, whereas at Newcastle I'd been used to a free rein."

"However, that's all behind me, and today I get a lot of satisfaction in hitting balls through to John Toshack. He is a great player to aim at, because I know he will win most of the balls in the air — and



Terry McDermott (stripes) fails to stop Kevin Keegan scoring Liverpool's first goal during the 1974 Cup Final.

generally, I am much more ambitious in what I attempt to do."

One of the things Terry is expected to do for Liverpool is to keep running for 90 minutes,

which makes his role a demanding one.

"At Anfield, nobody can let up during a match, and every player must be involved as much as possible. When we are putting the pressure on the other team, I'm in my element, as basically I am an attacking midfield man who prefers to go forward."

"With Newcastle, players could take an occasional breather — there was the tendency for me to stand and watch after I'd given a pass. Here at Liverpool a pass has to be followed up, so the opposition is seldom allowed to relax."

Not surprisingly, considering his attachment to Liverpool and Newcastle, the best and worst

TWO YEARS 'HARD' FOR TERRY McDERMOTT

moments of McDermott's career have been connected with both clubs.

"Signing for Liverpool, and taking part in Newcastle's F.A. Cup run of 1974, were both highlights," recalls Terry. "United's Semi-Final win over Burnley was a thrilling experience, but it was followed by Newcastle's Wembley eclipse by Liverpool — this was my biggest-ever disappointment."

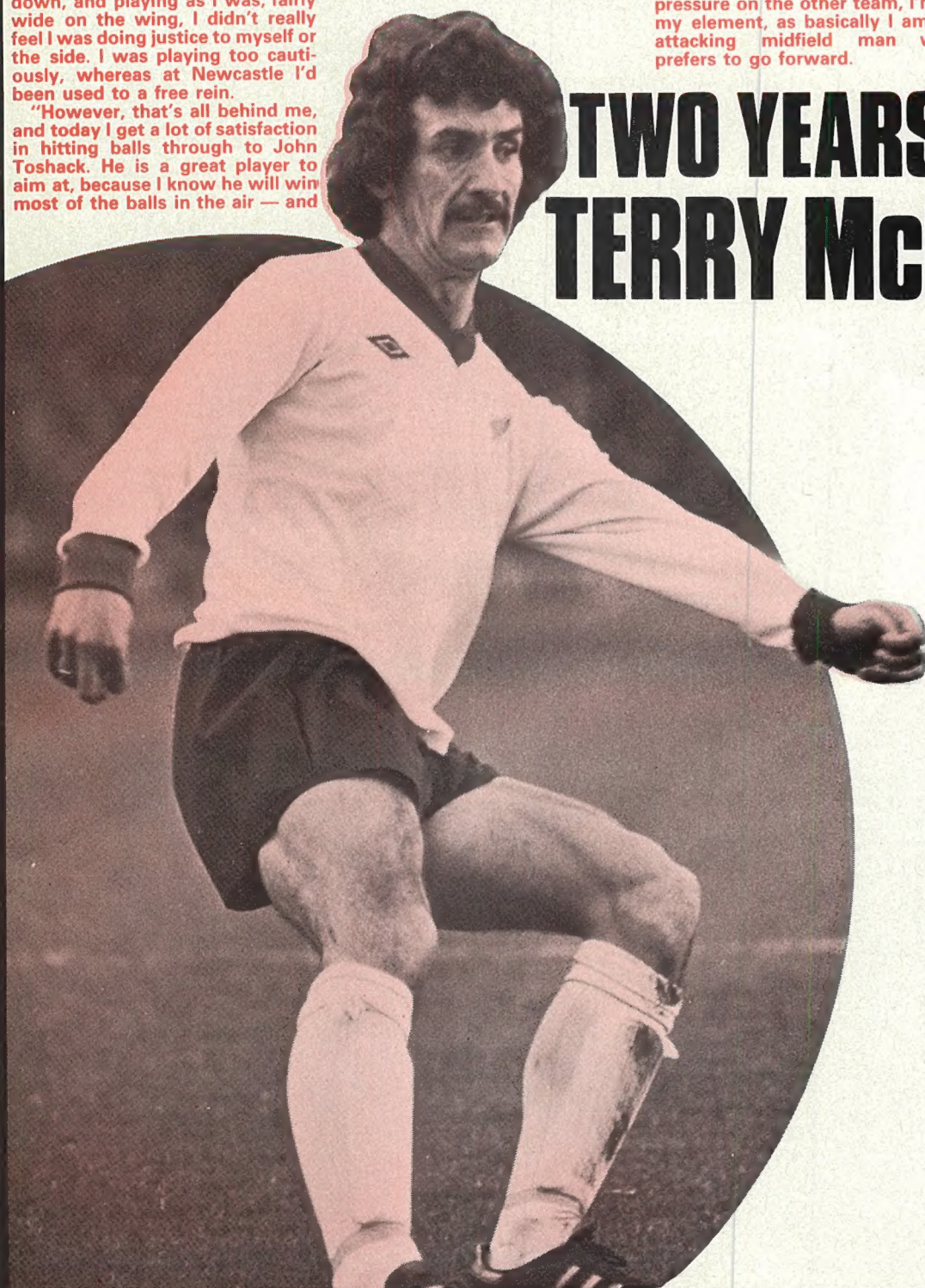
Along with his hopes of a Cup-winners' medal, McDermott's ambitions to gain an England cap faded after Newcastle's defeat in the Final, though his dream has revived this season.

"I think that when I was in the middle of my best spell at Newcastle I could have come under consideration for a cap. Perhaps if I can become a regular in the Liverpool side there will be a chance to come into the international reckoning."

Terry, a bargain buy by Newcastle from Bury for £20,000, appeared for England at Under-23 level in his first season on Tyneside. And there is nothing he would like more than to play again in front of the Newcastle fans at St James' Park, where he established himself as a First Division player.

"I haven't been in the last two Liverpool teams to visit Newcastle, but it would be great if I was selected the next time we meet United away. Along with the Anfield supporters, I rate Newcastle fans as the best in England."

"Here in Liverpool, there is everything to aim at, including the European Cup which every player at Anfield wants to win. And the "derbies" between Liverpool and Everton, whom we also meet in the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals soon, are tremendous occasions — but it's Liverpool who are my tip to win the League."



JON SAMMELS
Leicester City



SHOOT!

ALAN GOWLING
Newcastle
United



SHOOT!

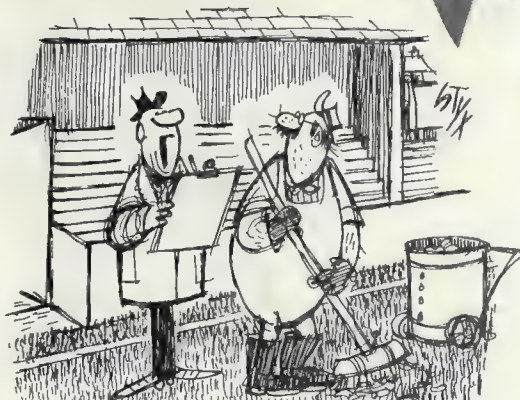
FOOTBALL

This week Hearts star **GRAHAM SHAW** selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist **Stryx**.

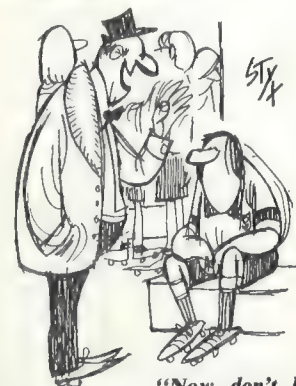


"What are you doing, ref? Making your will?"

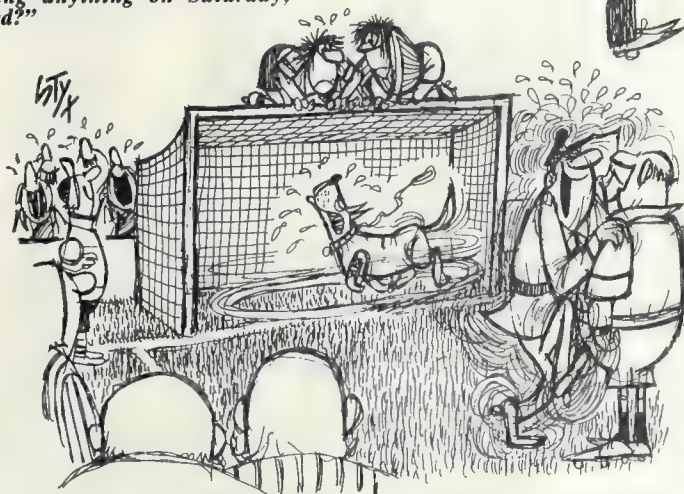
"Hello! Our fans are making for home — must be nearly half-time"



"I've got a team problem — five players suspended, two in bed with mumps and three injured. Are you doing anything on Saturday, Fred?"



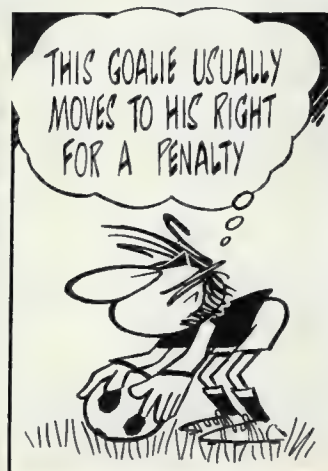
"Now don't let the £350,000 we paid for you affect your game — two or three goals in the first-half, then relax"



"Oh crumbs! My silly old police dog — saw them fighting and mistook them for fans!"

FUNNIES

NOBBY



THIS GOALIE USUALLY MOVES TO HIS RIGHT FOR A PENALTY



BUT HE KNOWS I KNOW THAT, SO HE COULD DIVE TO THE LEFT



BUT IF HE KNOWS I KNOW I KNOW HE KNOWS AND I KNOW HE



ANY CHANCE OF CHANGING IT TO AN INDIRECT FREE-KICK, REF?

WHY STOKE SOLD BIG MONEY PLAYERS—

By Terry Conroy

PEOPLE ask me if I'm sad at having such a disappointing season with Stoke. But nothing could be further from my mind.

In fact, I'm delighted at the way things have gone for me this season — it's the first time in about two or three years I've remained free from serious injuries. I think I've missed only two games all this season and that has been great news for me. I was beginning to get sick of being dogged by injuries.

Of course, it's a pity Stoke haven't been able to do better this term. But it's been a difficult time for everyone at the club, especially after recent developments and the fans must learn to be patient. A lot of things are happening at Stoke City at the moment. I'm sure the club will reap the benefits in a couple of years.

If anyone is looking for Stoke to win the Cup or the League next season I reckon they can forget it — unless we have a great deal of good fortune. But what we are now doing is going through a rebuilding stage which will ensure the club's future.

A lot of youngsters have come into the side this season and they must be given time to settle and develop within the framework of the side. It's no good rushing the kids because you'll destroy them if you do that.

Necessity

I tend to get a little tired of people saying to me: "Don't you want to go now all the stars have gone?" It's true Stoke have had to part with some good players — Alan Hudson, Mickey Bernard, Mike Pejic, Jimmy Greenhoff. But football is a business and it was purely through economic necessity we had to sell those players.

Alan Hudson was always on the cards for a move because he was a bit homesick for London. And if we hadn't have sold Greenhoff and Pejic, maybe the club wouldn't still exist.

So you can hardly argue with that sort of business. And, after all, we still have two of the big name signings — Peter Shilton and Geoff Salmons. And there are several other good players at the Victoria Ground.

I see our job now as one of trying to help bring the kids on as soon as possible and give them as much knowledge as they need. There are some very promising youngsters



JIMMY GREENHOFF
now with Manchester United.



filtering through to the senior side now but we won't have the real benefit of them for a couple of years. In the meantime, we all have to be patient and do our best.

Things began to improve as we went into the last third of the season. Before that, we'd had some very disappointing results and things weren't looking too bright at all. But I believe we're on the right path again now.

Looking back, was the big money spending campaign a failure? I don't think so. We got into Europe twice and although we didn't enjoy much success, we did well enough to get there. Now, with gates running at only about 20,000, selling top players was necessary to keep the club going.

It's a shame but the fans can't have everything — top players and only turn up occasionally. A First Division club these days needs to average at least 25,000 and we just weren't doing it. So money had to come in from another source.

Our injury hoodoo has handicapped us greatly in the last few years. I think we've had ten broken legs to first team players in six years and it's been very disruptive to our plans. But we can only hope the future will be kinder.

I'm not pessimistic about the future for Stoke City — in fact, I'm optimistic. We've had some difficult times recently on and off the field, but I believe that with the club now banking on the youngsters and a sound youth policy, we will build a good side again. And we'll be in there challenging for the honours again soon.

RESULTS... SCORERS... TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

FOURTH DIVISION

(continued)

EXETER (1) 2 (Beer, Kellow)
WATFORD (1) 2 (Mercer, Mayes) 5,867
 Exeter: Key; Templeman, Hore, Weeks, Saxton, Hatch, Hodge, Kellow, Robertson, Beer, Jennings.
 Watford: Rankin; Geidmintis, Pritchett, Bond, Horsfield, Garner, Downes, Joslyn, Mercer, Jenkins, Mayes.

HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 (Bielby)
HALIFAX (0) 0 1,651
 Hartlepool: Edgar; Creamer, Wiggett, Elliott (Bielby), Goad, Simpkin, Scaife, McMordie, Edean, Poskett, O'Donnell.
 Halifax: Leonard; Trainer, Loska, McGill (Bell), Dunleavy, Phelan, Hoy, Carroll, Bullock, Johnston, Ferguson.

ROCHDALE (0) 0
CREWE (0) 1 (Mayman) 1,609
 Rochdale: Poole; Hallows, Lacey, Bannon, Summerscales, O'Loughlin, Cooper (Helliwell), Mullington, Mountford, Whelan, Melledew.
 Crewe: Brand; Lowry, Roberts, Rimmer, Bowles, Bevan, Humphreys, Mayman, Davies (W), Davies (D), Tully.

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Lumby)
SOUTHEND (0) 0 2,752
 Scunthorpe: Letheran; Peacock, Pilling, Oates, Wigginton, Money, Czuczman, Lee, Kilmore, Lumby, Keeley.
 Southend: Freeman; Banks, Ford, Laverick, Moody, Young, Morris, Goodwin, Parker, Clark (Townsend), Little.

SWANSEA (1) 4 (Charles 2, Stead, Conway)
ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Crosby, Morrissey) 3,171
 Swansea: Potter; Stead, Bartley, Chappell, May, Lally, Conway, James, Curtis, Charles, Harvey.
 Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Wallace (J), Crosby, Wooler, Jopling, Butler, Morrissey, Earls (Hibbs), Brodie, McGregor.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

ABERDEEN (1) 2 (Graham, Harper) 21,656
CELTIC (0) 0
 Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, Smith, Garner, Miller, Davidson (Sullivan), Fleming (Scott), Harper, Shirra, Graham.
 Celtic: Latchford; McGrain, Lynch, Stanton, Edvaldsson, McCluskey (Conn), Doyle, Glavin, Craig, Aitken, Dalglish.



A goal by Alan Woodward helped Sheffield United to a 3-0 win v. Cardiff City.

AYR (1) 1 (McCall)
HIBS (0) 2 (Duncan, Higgins) 3,993
 Ayr: Sproat; Wells, Kelly, Fleming, Tait, Filippi (Ingram), McSherry, McCall, Masterton, Cramond, Robertson (McCulloch).
 Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Schaedler, Bremner, Stewart, Blackley, Fyfe, McLeod, Smith, Higgins, Duncan.

HEARTS (1) 1 (Brown)
DUNDEE UTD (1) 1 (Sturrock) 8,000
 Hearts: Cruickshank; Kay, Burrell, Brown, Gallacher, Fraser, Bannon, Busby (Shaw), Gibson, Park, Prentice.
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Rolland, Fleming, Houston, Smith, Narey, Sturrock, Wallace, Hegarty, McAdam, Payne (Williamson).

MOTHERWELL (0) 0
RANGERS (1) 2 (MacDonald, Watson) 15,468
 Motherwell: Rennie; Watson, Wark, McAdam, McLaren, Stevens, Miller, Pettigrew, O'Rourke, Davidson (Hood), Marinello (Kennedy).
 Rangers: Kennedy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, Watson, McLean, McDougall (McKean), Parlane (Miller), MacDonald, Robertson.

PARTICK (2) 3 (Houston, McQuade, Somner)
KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Smith pen.) 3,000
 Partick: Rough; Mackie, Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Hansen (A), Houston (Love), Hansen (J), McQuade, Somner, Craig.

Kilmarnock: Stewart; Maxwell, Robertson, Murdoch (McLean), Clarke, McDicken, Smith, Provan, Doherty, McCulloch, Fallis (Jardine).

MONDAY, MARCH 7

THIRD DIVISION

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Cullerton)
PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Lee pen.) 4,417
 Port Vale: Connaughton; Clements, Griffiths, Ridley, Harris, McLaren, Beech, Bailey, Rogers (Sutcliffe), Beamish, Cullerton.
 Peterborough: Waugh; Lee, Hindley, Robson, Turner, Ross, Nixon, Gregory, Woof, Carmichael, Rogers.

WREXHAM (1) 2 (Whittle, Shinton)
TRANMERE (0) 0 7,473
 Wrexham: Lloyd; Evans, Dwyer, Davis, Ciegieski, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Ashcroft, Whittle, Griffiths.
 Tranmere: West; Mathias, Flood, Griffiths, Philpotts, Palios, Peplow, Cliff, Moore, Tynan, James (Kenny).

FOURTH DIVISION

DARLINGTON (0) 5 (Seal, Ferguson, Rowles, Maitland, Craig)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Kilmore, Keeley) 2,134
 Darlington: Ogley; Nattress, Cochran, Rowles, Craig, Stone, Lyons, Seal, Ferguson, Maitland (Young), Wann.
 Scunthorpe: O'Meara; Peacock, Pilling, Oates, Wigginton, Czuczman, Money, Kilmore, Keeley, Lumby (Dale), Lee.

STOCKPORT (1) 1 (McBeth)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 2,649
 Stockport: Holbrook; Rutter, Buckley, Thompson, Lennard, Smith, McBeth (Fletcher), McNeill, Daniels, Morrin, Darling.
 Hartlepool: Edgar; Creamer, Wiggett, Elliott, Goad, Simpkin, Scaife, McMordie, Edean (Bielby), Poskett, O'Donnell.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

F.A. CUP

(Fifth Round replay)

MAN. UTD (1) 2 (Greenhoff J. 2)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Peach pen.) 58,103
 Man. U: Stepney; Nicholl, Houston, McIlroy, Greenhoff (B), Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Pearson, Macari, Hill.
 Southampton: Wells; Andruszewski, Peach, Holmes, Blyth, Steele, Ball, Channon, Osgood, Williams, MacDougall.

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (1) 1 (Macdonald) 19,517
W.B.A. (1) 2 (Cross 2)
 Arsenal: Rimmer; Rice, Nelson, Price, Young, Howard, Brady, Powlings, Macdonald, Stapleton, Armstrong.
 W.B.A.: Osborne; Mulligan, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Robson (Trewick), Brown (A), Cross, Giles, Johnston.

Q.P.R. 0
LEEDS 0 20,386
 Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, McLintock, Webb, Thomas, Francis, Masson, Kelly, Eastoe.
 Leeds: Stewart; Reaney, Stevenson, Cherry, McQueen, Madeley, Gray (F), Clarke (Thomas), Jordan, Lorimer, Gray (E).

SECOND DIVISION

BRISTOL R 0
BLACKBURN 0 5,628
 Bristol R: Eadie; Bate, Parsons, Day, Taylor, Prince (Foreman), Williams, Fearnley, Stanforth, Aitken, Evans.
 Blackburn: Butcher; Fazackerley, Wood, Waddington, Parkin, Hawkins, Taylor, Hird, Mitchell, Parkes, Metcalfe.

LUTON (0) 1 (Geddis)
OLDHAM (0) 0 12,301
 Luton: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, Futch (P), Husband, West (Geddis), Futch (R), Fuccillo, Aston.
 Oldham: Platt; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Robins, Shaw, Halom, Chapman, Groves (Valentine).

NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 (Withe)
NOTTS CO. (0) 2 (Anderson o.g., Carter pen.) 31,004
 Nottm F.: Middleton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Chapman, Bowyer, O'Hare, C'Neill, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.
 Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Mann, Needham, Benjamin (Scanlon), Carter, Vinter, Bradd, Busby, Smith.

ORIENT (1) 1 (Bennett)
MILLWALL (1) 1 (Shanahan pen.) 7,431
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Gray, Roeder, Chiedoie, Bennett, Glynn, Alder, Whittle.
 Millwall: Johns; Evans, Dorney, Brisley, Kitchener, Hazell, Seasmann (Cross), Shanahan, Summerill, Walker, Donaldson.

SHEFF. UTD. (0) 3 (Woodward, Edwards, Hamson)
CARDIFF (0) 0 12,907
 Sheff. U.: Brown; Franks, Garner, Faulkner, Colquhoun, Kenworthy, Woodward, Ludlam, Edwards (Stainrod), Hamson, Hamilton.
 Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Charles, Sayer, Went, Larmour, Grapes, Livermore, Evans, Friday (Buchanan), Giles.

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTER (1) 1 (Mason)
BURY (0) 0 3,975
 Chester: Millington; Edwards (N), Walker, Storton, Delgado, Oakes, Dearden, Mason, Howat, Owen, Crossley.
 Bury: Forrest; Keenan, Kennedy, Williams, Tucker, Hutton, Thomson, McIlwraith, Rowland, Farrell, Owen (Rudd).

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0
MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Randall) 7,288
 Northampton: Ward; Tucker, Bryant, Gregory, Robertson, Best, Farrington (McGowan), Williams, Martin, Christie, Stratford.
 Mansfield: Arnold; Bird, Foster (B), McEwan, Mackenzie, Foster (C), Cook, Moss, Randall, Hodgson, McDonald.

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Crawford)
LINCOLN (0) 0 10,045
 Rotherham: McAlister; Pugh, Breckin, Womble, Stancliffe, Spencer, Habbins, Phillips, Gwyther, Goodfellow, Crawford.
 Lincoln: Grotier; Branfoot, Neale, Booth, Ellis, Cooper, Fleming, Ward, Freeman, Smith (Cockerill), Harding.

SWINDON (1) 4 (Dixon, Prophett, Syrett, Anderson)
GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Lewis) 6,980
 Swindon: Barron; Dixon, Trollope, Stroud, Aizlewood, Prophett, Moss, McLaughlin, Syrett, McHale, Anderson.

Grimsby: Wainman; Yates, Booth, Waters, Hanvey, Gray, Lewis, Partridge, Young, Boylen, Broily.

FOURTH DIVISION

HALIFAX (1) 1 (Lawson pen.)
COLCHESTER (1) 2 (Packer, Leslie) 2,097
 Halifax: Leonard; Trainer, Loska, Flavell, Dunleavy, Phelan, Hoy, Carroll, Bullock, Lawson, Johnston.
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Williams, Leslie, Smith, Downman, Foley, Gough, Froggatt, Packer, Dyer.

SOUTHPORT (0) 1 (Dewsnip)
BRENTFORD (0) 2 (Sweetzer, Johnson pen.) 969
 Southport: Harrison; Brown, O'Brien, O'Neil, Brookes, Higham, Lyon, Smith, Galley (Brookfield), Wilson, Dewsnip.
 Brentford: Priddy; Fraser, Allen, Smith, Goldthorpe, Bain, Johnson, Graham, Sweetzer, Carlton (Shrubbs), Phillips.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

DUNDEE UTD. 0
RANGERS 0 10,500
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Rolland, Williamson, Fleming, Smith, Narey, Sturrock, Wallace, Hegarty, McAdam, Houston.
 Rangers: Kennedy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, Watson, McLean, McKean, Parlane, MacDonald, Robertson (McDougall).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

FIRST DIVISION

DERBY (0) 1 (Daniel)
COVENTRY (1) 1 (Wallace) 22,808
 Derby: Boulton; Langan, Thomas, Daly, McFarland (Daniel), Todd, Hector, Macken, Hales, George, James.
 Coventry: Blyth; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Dugdale, Holmes, Beck, Wallace, Ferguson, Powell, Hutchison.

MAN. CITY (1) 1 (Tueart pen.)
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 44,439
 Man. C.: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Doyle, Booth, Owen, Barnes, Kidd, Royle, Hartford, Tueart.
 Sunderland: Siddall; Docherty, Bolton, Arnott (Brown), Waldron, Ashurst, Kerr, Elliott, Holden, Lee, Rowell.

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Nattress)
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Wark) 31,790
 Newcastle: Mahoney; Blackhall, Kennedy, Nattress, McCaffery, Nulty, Barrowclough, Oates, Burns, Gowing, Craig (T).
 Ipswich: Sivell; Mills, Tibbott, Talbot, Hunter, Beattie, Osborne (Gates), Wark, Mariner, Bertschin, Woods.

NORWICH (0) 1 (Ryan)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 17,629
 Norwich: Keelan; Ryan, Sullivan, Forbes, Jones, Powell, Neighbour, Reeves, Busby, Suggitt, Peters.
 Middlesbrough: Cuff; Craggs, Cooper, Souness, Boam, Maddran, McAndrew, Mills, Brine, Wood (Willey), Armstrong.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Coates)
LIVERPOOL (0) 0 32,098
 Tottenham: Daines; Naylor, Gorman (McAllister), Pratt, Osgood, Hoddie, Jones, Perryman, Armstrong, Coates, Taylor.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Toshack, Callaghan.

FOURTH DIVISION

BARNLEY (0) 1 (Millar)
WATFORD (1) 1 (Mercer) 7,429
 Barnley: Springett; Murphy, Collins, Lathan, Saunders, Pickering, Felton, Joicy, Wigg, Millar, Brown.
 Watford: Rankin; Geidmintis, Pritchett, Bond, Horsfield, Garner, Downes, Joslyn, Mercer, Mayes, Jenkins.

WORKINGTON (0) 1 (Prudham)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Riley) 1,034

Workington: Rogan; Leng, Brown, Kavanagh, Blant, Ashworth, Harris, Kisby, Prudham, Coleman, Honour.
Bournemouth: Baker; Butler, Miller, Morgan (Paterson), Impey, Barton, Howarth, Cunningham, Cave, Riley, Johnson.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

CELTIC (1) 2 (Conn, Doyle)
PARTICK (0) 1 (McQuade) 22,000
Celtic: Latchford; McGrain, Burns, Stanton, Edvaldsson, Aitken, Doyle, Glavin, Craig, Dalglish, Conn.
Partick: Rough; Hansen (J), Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Hansen (A), Houston, Love, Somner, Craig, McQuade.

HIBS (2) 2 (Smith, McLeod)
KILMARNOCK (0) 0 3,000
Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Schaefer, Bremner, Stewart, Blackley, Edwards, McLeod, Smith, Higgins, Duncan.
Kilmarnock: Stewart; Maxwell, Robertson, Murdoch, Welsh, McDicken, Smith, Provan, Docherty, McCulloch, Fleming.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

SECOND DIVISION

CHARLTON (0) 1 (Peacock)
CARLISLE (0) 0 7,113

Charlton: Wood; Curtis, Warman, Tydeman, Giles, Berry, Powell, Burman (Hunt), Flanagan, Peacock, McAuley.
Carlisle: Ross; Hoolickin, Bailey, Martin, MacDonald, Parker, McVitie, Carr, Tait, Rafferty, Barry.

FULHAM (0) 1 (Lacy)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Hebberd) 13,408
Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Storey, Lacy, Moore, Maybank, Slough, Warboys, Mitchell, Evanson.
Southampton: Wells; Andruszewski, Peach, Holmes, Blyth, Steele, Ball, Hebberd, Osgood, Williams, Stokes.

THIRD DIVISION

PETERBOROUGH (2) 3 (Nixon, Turner 2)
CHESTER (2) 2 (Dearden, Edwards N.) 4,781

Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Lee, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Nixon, Cozens, Robson, Carmichael, Rogers.
Chester: Millington; Edwards (N), Walker, Storton, Delgado, Oakes, Dearden, Mason, Kearney, Owen (Howat), Crossley.

PORT VALE 0
WALSALL 0 4,819
Port Vale: Connaughton; Brodie, Griffiths, Ridley, Harris, McLaren, Beech, Bailey, Rogers, Beamish, Cullerton.
Walsall: Kearns; Taylor, Caswell, Hynd, Serella, Atthey, Dennehy, Bates, Andrews, Buckley, Evans (Robinson).

SWINDON (1) 2 (Anderson, Moss)
READING (2) 2 (Hiron, Earles) 9,886
Swindon: Barron; Dixon, Trollope, Stroud, Aizlewood, Prophett, Moss, McLaughlin, Syrett, McHale, Anderson.
Reading: Death; Peters, Drysdale, Bowman, Hetzke, Moreline, Earles, Hiron, Hollis, Carnaby, Dunphy.

TRANMERE (0) 1 (James)
OXFORD (0) 1 (Foley) 2,451
Tranmere: West; Mathias, Flood, Griffiths, Philpotts, Palios, Peplow, Cliff, Moore, Tynan, James.
Oxford: Burton; Taylor, Fogg, Bodel, Lowe, Jeffrey, Briggs, Houseman, Foley, Seacole, Duncan.

FOURTH DIVISION

CREWE (1) 2 (Lugg pen., Humphreys)
EXETER (0) 0 2,500
Crewe: Brand; Lowry, Roberts, Lugg, Bowles, Bevan (Rimmer), Davies (D), Mayman, Davies (W), Humphreys, Tully.
Exeter: Key (Roberts); Gay, Hore, Weeks, Saxton, Hatch, Hodge, Kellow, Robertson, Beer, Jennings.

DONCASTER (0) 1 (Uzelac)
STOCKPORT (0) 0 6,336

Doncaster: Peacock; Brookes, Reed, Robinson, Uzelac, Taylor, Miller, Murray, O'Callaghan, Kitchen, Laidlaw.
Stockport: Holbrook; Loadwick, Rutter, Thompson, Buckley (Fletcher), Smith, McBeth, McNeill, Daniels, Morrin, Darling.

SOUTHEND (0) 0
CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Hall) 9,423
Southend: Freeman; Banks, Ford, Laverick, Moody, Young, Morris, Hadley, Parker, Goodwin, Little.
Cambridge: Webster; Batson, Harper, Stringer, Fallon, Howard, Watson, Spriggs, Hall, Finney, Biley.

SOUTHPORT (1) 1 (O'Neil)
SWANSEA (0) 3 (Curtis, Conway, Harris) 972
Southport: Harrison; Brown, Snookes (Lyon), O'Neil, Brookes, Higham, Birchall, Smith, Wilson, Hughes, Dewsnip.
Swansea: Potter; Evans, Stead, Bartley, May, Lally, Chappell, James, Curtis, Charles (Harris), Conway.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

LEAGUE CUP FINAL

ASTON VILLA 0
EVERTON 0 at Wembley 100,000
Villa: Burridge; Gidman, Robson, Phillips, Nicholl, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Gray, Cropley, Carrodus.
Everton: Lawson; Jones, Darracott, Lyons, McNaught, King, Hamilton, Dobson, Latchford, McKenzie, Goodlass.

FIRST DIVISION

DERBY 0
BIRMINGHAM 0 24,523
Derby: Boulton; Langan, Webster, Daly, Daniel, Todd, Powell, Hector, Hales, George, James.
Birmingham: Montgomery; Rathbone, Styles, Kendall (Pendrey), Burns, Want, Fox, Francis, Calderwood, Hibbitt, Connolly.

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Wark pen.)
BRISTOL C (0) 0 24,547
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Mills, Talbot, Hunter, Tibbott, Osborne, Wark (Gates), Mariner, Whymark, Woods.
Bristol C: Shaw; Gillies, Merrick, Sweeney, Collier, Hunter, Garland, Ritchie, Cormack, Mann, Whitehead.

LEICESTER (2) 3 (Alderson, Earle, Worthington)
COVENTRY (0) 1 (Ferguson) 16,766
Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Rofe, Kember, Sims, Woollett, Weller, Alderson, Worthington, Birchenall, Earle.
Coventry: Blyth; Oakey, McDonald, Yorath, Roberts, Beck, Powell, Wallace, Ferguson, Green (Cartwright), Hutchison.

MAN. UTD. (1) 1 (Cherry o.g.)
LEEDS (0) 0 60,612
Man. U: Stepany; Nicholl, Houston, McLroy, Greenhoff (B), Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Pearson, Macari, Hill (McCreary).
Leeds: Stewart; Reaney, Hampton, Cherry, McQueen, Madeley, Gray (F), Lorimer, Jordan, Currie (McNiven), Gray (E).

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (Hughes) 29,000
Middlesbrough: Cuff; Craggs, Cooper, Souness, Boam, Ramage, McAndrew, Mills, Boersma, Wood (Willey), Armstrong.
Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Highway (Johnson), Fairclough, Callaghan.

NEWCASTLE (2) 5 (Oates, Craig, McCaffery 2, Gowling)
NORWICH (1) 1 (Reeves) 26,216
Newcastle: Mahoney; Blackhall, Kennedy, Nattrass, McCaffery, Nulty, Barrowclough, Oates, Burns, Gowling, Craig (T).
Norwich: Keelan; Ryan, Sullivan, Forbes, Jones, Powell, Neighbour (Fleeting), Reeves, Busby, Suggett, Peters.

Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Hollins, Francis)
ARSENAL (0) 1 (Young) 26,191
Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, McLintock, Webb, Thomas (Eastoe), Francis, Masson, Kelly, Givens.
Arsenal: Rimmer; Rice, Nelson, Powling, Young, Howard, Brady, Hudson (Price), Macdonald, Stapleton, Armstrong.



Alan Gowling scored during Newcastle's 5-1 drubbing of Norwich.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0
W.B.A. (1) 2 (Robson, Cross) 28,834
Tottenham: Daines; Naylor, Holmes, Pratt, Osgood, Hoddle, Jones, Perryman (McNab), Armstrong, Coates, Taylor.
W.B.A.: Godden; Mulligan, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Robson, Cunningham, Cross, Giles, Johnston.

WEST HAM (1) 1 (Robson, B)
MAN. CITY (0) 0 24,974
West Ham: Day; Bonds, Lampard, Otulakowski, Green (Curbishley), Lock, Pike, Robson (B), Devonshire, Brooking, Jennings.
Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Doyle (Owen), Watson, Conway, Barnes, Kidd, Royle, Hartford, Tueart.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKBURN (2) 2 (Hawkins, Hird)
ORIENT (2) 2 (Mayo, Glover) 7,707
Blackburn: Bradshaw; Fazackerley, Wood, Waddington, Keeley, Hawkins, Taylor (Crompton), Hird, Mitchell, Parkes, Metcalfe.
Orient: Jackson; Roffey, Fisher, Greulich, Gray, Roeder, Glover, Bennett, Mayo, Allder, Whittle.

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Ronson)
BOLTON (0) 0 23,659
Blackpool: Wood; Curtis, Harrison, Ronson, Hart, Suddaby, Ainscow, Spence, Walsh, Hatton, Bentley.
Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones (P), Allardyce, Morgan, Whatmore, Jones (G), Reid, Waldron (Train).

BRISTOL R 0
MILLWALL 0 6,242
Bristol R: Eadie; Bate, Parsons, Day, Taylor, Aitken, Stephens, Williams, Stanforth, Fearley, Evans.
Millwall: Johns; Dorney, Moore, Brisley, Jeffries, Hazell, Lee, Shanahan (Salvage), Summerill, Walker, Cross.

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Smith)
SHEFF. UTD (0) 0 10,571
Burnley: Stevenson; Newton, Brennan, Noble, Robinson, Rodaway, Cochran, Flynn, Fletcher, Smith, Morley.
Sheff. U: Brown; Franks, Garner, Faulkner, Colquhoun, Kenworthy, Woodward, Ludlam, Edwards, Hamson, Hamilton (Cutbush).

CARDIFF (0) 1 (Dwyer)
CHELSEA (0) 3 (Britton, Swain, Stanley) 20,194
Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Charles, Sayer, Went, Larmour, Grapes, Livermore, Evans, Friday, Giles.
Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Sparrow, Stanley, Wicks, Hay, Britton, Wilkins (R), Finnieston, Lewington, Swain.

LUTON (0) 1 (Aston)
PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Foster) 12,793
Luton: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, Fletcher (P), Husband, West, Geddis, Fuccillo, Aston.
Plymouth: Ramsbottom; Smart, Darke, Peddell, Sutton, Horswill, Randell, Foster, Austin, Bannister, Rogers.

OLDHAM (1) 1 (Halom)
NOTTS CO (0) 1 (Bradd) 9,769
Oldham: Ogden; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Robins, Shaw, Halom, Chapman, Groves.
Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Busby, Needham, Mann, Carter, Mair (Sims), Bradd, Smith, Scanlon.

NOTTM FOREST (2) 2 (Woodcock, Withe)
HULL (0) 0 15,126
Nottm F: Middleton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Chapman, Bowyer, O'Neill, Birtles, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.
Hull: Wealds; Nisbet, Daniel, Dobson, Croft, Haigh, Grimes, Lord (Gibson), Sunley, Hemmerman, McIntosh.

WOLVES (1) 2 (Todd, Hibbitt)
HEREFORD (0) 1 (Briley) 22,992
Wolves: Pierce; Palmer, Parkin, Daley, Munro, McAlle, Hibbitt, Richards, Sunderland, Kindon, Todd.
Hereford: Hughes; Emery, Ritchie, Layton, Jefferson, Lindsay, Carter, Spiring, Davey, McNeil, Briley.

THIRD DIVISION

BURY (1) 2 (Rowland, Thomson)
MANSFIELD (0) 0 5,321
Bury: Forrest; Keenan, Kennedy, Thomson, Tucker, Hutton, Farrell, Rudd, McIlwraith, Rowland, Williams.
Mansfield: Arnold; Pate, Wood, McEwan, Saxby, Bird, Miller, Moss, Randall, Hodgson, McDonald (Cook).

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Tartt)
GILLINGHAM (0) 0 4,410
Chesterfield: Tingay; Smith, Burton (Cammack), Tartt, Cottam, O'Neill, Fern, Kowalski, Green, Parker, Heppellette.
Gillingham: Hillyard; Knight, Armstrong, Galvin, Shipperley, Hughes, Nicholl, Crabbe, Price, Westwood, Weatherly.

C. PALACE (1) 3 (Harkouk 2, Swindlehurst)
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Morgan) 28,677
C. Palace: Burns; Wall, Sansom, Holder, Cannon, Evans, Hinshelwood (P), Graham, Bourne (Hilaire), Swindlehurst, Harkouk.
Brighton: Steele; Tiler, Cattlin, Horton, Rollings, Cross, Townner, Ward, Mellor, Piper (Morgan), O'Sullivan.

GRIMSBY (1) 1 (Liddell)
ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Finney) 5,792
Grimsby: Wainman; Yates, Moore, Waters, Hanvey, Gray, Lewis, Partridge, Liddell, Boylen, Brolly.
Rotherham: McAlister; Pugh, Breckin, Womble, Stanciliffe, Spencer, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Goodfellow, Crawford.

PORTSMOUTH (0) 2 (Kemp, Mellows)
SHREWSBURY (0) 0 9,904
Portsmouth: Lloyd; Piper, Viney, Roberts, Foster, Cahill, Pullar, Kemp, Gilchrist (Kamara), Pollock, Mellows.
Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin (Loughnane), Atkins, Irvine, Hornsby, Lawrence, Bates, Moore.

SHEFF. WED (1) 1 (Rushbury)
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Hubbard) 14,854
Sheff. W: Turner; Walden, Rushbury, Mullen, Dowd, Leman, Wyld, Johnson, Tynan, Hope (Potts), Bradshaw.
Lincoln: Grotier; Branfoot, Neale, Booth, Ellis, Cooper, Fleming, Hubbard, Graham, Smith, Harding.

WREXHAM (1) 3 (Thomas, Whittle, Griffiths pen.)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Best) 6,775
Wrexham: Lloyd; Evans, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Ashcroft, Whittle, Griffiths.
Northampton: Ward; Tucker, Bryant, Gregory, Robertson, Best, Farrington, Williams, Martin (Haywood), Stratford, Christie.

YORK (0) 0
PRESTON (1) 2 (Smith, Elwiss) 3,575
York: Crawford; Scott, Hutt, Topping, Hunter, James (Morris), Pollard, Holmes, Hinch, Stanforth, Galvin.
Preston: Tunks; Cameron, Williams, Burns, Baxter, Lawrenson, Coleman, Brown, Smith, Elwiss, Bruce (Doyle).

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.
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Stockport's debut

I'd like to know when my local club, Stockport County, was founded, and also the result of their first Football League match?

PAUL DEAKIN,
STOCKPORT

● They were formed in 1883 — playing under the name of Heaton Norris Rovers until 1891 — and were elected to Division Two of the League in 1900. Paul.

Stockport's first League game was a 2-2 away draw against Leicester Fosse (now Leicester City) on 1st September, that year.

And their first home League game, the following Saturday, saw a 5-0 hammering from New Brighton.

Tartan Rangers

Would you tell me if Q.P.R.'s Don Mason is the first full Scottish international to play for the club?

SAMMY BOWMAN,
HAMILTON

● He's certainly the first to win a full Scottish cap while a Q.P.R. player, Sammy.

But other Tartan Rangers — like ever-green Frank McLintock today — have played for their country while on the books of other clubs.

Wilf Wild

Could you tell me if my Mum's uncle was manager of Manchester City? His name is Mr. W. Wild.

LEE MARTIN,
NEWARK

● If that 'W' stands for Wilfred, Lee, he certainly was — and a pretty successful one, too.

After many years as secretary at Maine Road, Wilf Wild took over as manager in 1932 — and steered City to win the F.A. Cup two years later, and then the League Championship in 1937. And he stayed on in charge in the first few seasons after the War as well.

Come in Number 674!

As the qualifying rounds of the F.A. Cup start back in early September, can you tell me the record number of entries?

PAUL CARRBERRY,
GLASGOW

● The highest I can trace, Paul, is 674. That was in the 1920-21 season — and, out of that vast number, Spurs eventually came out winners, more than half a year later, by beating Wolves 1-0 in the Final.

Non-League glory

Which non-League club has had the longest run in the F.A. Cup since the War?

GARY EDDY,
LEEDS

● Quite a few — like Tooting and Mitcham last season — have fought their way through to the Fourth Round, Gary.

But the only two to get as far as the Fifth — and they did it in successive early post-War seasons — were Colchester in 1947-48 and Yeovil (1949-49).

Colchester's feat undoubtedly helped their election to the League two years later, but Yeovil weren't so fortunate.

Transfer fees

As a keen Leeds' fan, I'd like to know for my scrapbook the exact transfer fees received for the recent moves of Billy Bremner, Terry Yorath, and Norman Hunter, please?

JEAN TOWLER,
DONCASTER

● Sorry, Jean, but exact transfer fees are never officially revealed — unless someone in the know lets the cat out of the bag, that is!

All published fees are really only estimates — some spot-on; others sometimes a bit off the mark — but ours for Yorath's move to Coventry is £135,000; with Bremner (to Hull) and Hunter (Bristol City) costing £40,000 each.

"Dixie" Dean

Can you please tell me who's scored the most hat-tricks in Football League games?

TONY DEMPSEY,
LIVERPOOL

● Your local lad, the great "Dixie" Dean — of his 437 League games, he played 399 for Everton, and the first 29 for neighbouring Tranmere — holds that record, Tony.

"Dixie" scored 37 hat-tricks in those games — but even he doesn't hold the record for a single season.

That goes to his contemporary, English international George Garsell, who scored nine Division Two hat-tricks for Middlesbrough in the 1926-27 campaign.

SHORT PASSES

● Mike Summerbee played eight times for England between 1967-68 and 1972-73.

(JOHN MELVIN, Southport)

● Ian Porterfield's winning goal for Sunderland v. Leeds in the 1973 F.A. Cup Final came in the 30th minute.

(KULDIP SINGH, Leicester)

● Ian Hutchinson played 119 League games for Chelsea before injury ended his top class career.

(WILLIAM FORREST, Beckenham)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

'A TOUGH I HAPPY C

my soccer scene

GORDON
HILL

I predict this will be a happy Easter for all at Manchester United — but not for Everton, Stoke and Sunderland.

While most SHOOT readers are enjoying a holiday break, I and around 1,000 or so fellow professional footballers in England will be heavily engaged in tough League fixtures.

Because of the number of matches involved, spread over such a short period, relegation, promotion and often Championship issues are made a lot clearer.

This season it may be different, though, especially in the First Division where it's as tight at the top as it is at the bottom.

In fact, I don't think there has ever been so many clubs involved in the First Division relegation battle. Each point gained by one of the clubs in the danger zone pushes another deeper into trouble.

This term, Manchester United's Easter programme could well have a bearing on who goes down, as all three clubs we play are uncertain to retain their senior status.

As I write, Sunderland and Everton are having a bright spell, while the storm clouds are hovering over Stoke City.

I know it's very much "dog eats dog" in the game today, but I really would hate to see any of these famous clubs go down.

All three have tremendous tradition — and all three have made changes at managerial level recently.

Minor Miracle

Sunderland's great, late burst could well save them, which will be a minor miracle worked by manager Jimmy Adamson — a man I admire.

When he took over from Bob Stokoe last December, the Roker Park men looked doomed to make a speedy return to the Second Division.

Everton's Gordon Lee, who succeeded Billy Bingham early in January has inherited a fine squad at Goodison.

There can be few instances in soccer history of a manager taking over a club in danger of relegation and then leading them to a Wembley Cup Final and F.A. Cup Semi-Final all within the space of a few weeks.

Stoke caused a sensation on Tuesday, March 22nd, when the League's longest-serving manager Tony Waddington resigned after a behind-the-scenes disagreement.

Obviously I don't know the ins-and-outs of the situation at the Victoria Ground. It's not my job to comment on it, anyhow.



I just wish Mr Waddington's successor all the best of luck for this season and the future.

At the start of the term, Sunderland were one of the clubs I thought might have a struggle to stay up. There's no way I ever imagined Everton and Stoke to be in a similar situation. I had expected them to be up among the leaders... setting the pace.

United's first opponents this Easter are League Cup Finalists and F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists Everton at Goodison on Good Friday (April 8th).

Man. U. fans will need no reminding that it was Everton who knocked us out of the Fifth Round of the League Cup this season with a fine 3-0 victory at Old T.

That evening was the climax of United's run of poor form. After that we improved week by week and haven't looked back since.

In a way The Toffees did United a favour by licking us in the League Cup. That defeat brought us down to earth, made us concentrate and work harder for each other.

A few weeks later, on Boxing Day, United proved they had learned a valuable lesson by thumping Everton 4-0 at Old T. in the League.

All away matches at this level are tough, so I'm not fooling

EASTER, BUT A ONE FOR UNITED'

myself by imagining we're going to achieve a similar result on Good Friday.

Everton, with everything to prove and each match a battle for survival, will provide extremely tough opposition.

Obviously United will be looking for two points, but I'll be happy with a draw.

Sorry Stoke, but you are on a hiding to nothing at Old Trafford on Saturday (April 9th).

This season's match at the Victoria Ground, scheduled to take place over the Christmas period, was postponed due to bad weather. But I haven't forgotten last season's encounter at home yet.

Stoke beat United 1-0 to end any hope we had of winning the League title.

To be honest United were rubbish that day and Stoke deserved their victory, thanks to a late goal by Alan Bloor.

One reason why I firmly believe United will win on Saturday is Jimmy Greenhoff, the former Stoke star.

Jimmy is anxious to prove something — not to the Stoke fans or the club — but to himself... that he made the right decision to leave the Victoria Ground for United.

Jimmy is really on song at the moment and has greatly contri-

buted to our fabulous revival.

The one stumbling block for us? Stoke and England 'keeper Peter Shilton.

This man is fantastic. Defenders must really feel secure with him behind them.

So a win for United and a good one with a goal or two from Jimmy. He'll really fix 'em.

Finally away to Sunderland on Easter Monday.

This will be our fifth meeting this season. A month or so before drawing 3-3 in the League at Old T. the two clubs were engaged in a marathon Third Round League Cup-tie. United finally won at the third attempt at home.

Mind you, the Roker Park team has changed a fair bit since then. Youngsters such as Shaun Elliot, Gary Rowell and Kevin Arnott have helped the team shatter the form book recently. They will be going all out to sharpen their teeth even more against a side like United.

I also understand striker Bob Lee, a £200,000 Stokoe signing from Leicester, is at last showing his true form. So, too, is Mel Holden and 'keeper Barry Siddall.

We will obviously be under

enormous pressure at Roker which will be like a fiery cauldron of sound. But United are now old campaigners and used to a pressure-cooker atmosphere.

A hard game, this, but I feel confident United will prove good enough to repeat our earlier successes... but only just!

Well, it only leaves me enough space to wish all SHOOT readers and Manchester United fans a very Happy Easter.

Have a good holiday, enjoy

yourselves and go to a game if you can.

But please, let's also make it a Happy Easter for the police, public transport employees and people everywhere by having no outbursts of soccer hooliganism.

Gordon Hill

RIGHT
Stoke City and England goalkeeper Peter Shilton is having a very good season and will be a major stumbling block for Gordon and the other United forwards when they face The Potters.

BELOW
Everton knocked United out of the League Cup — and did The Reds a favour.



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PLEASE ADD 20p PER FILM FOR ORDERS IN U.K.

FA CUP FINALS

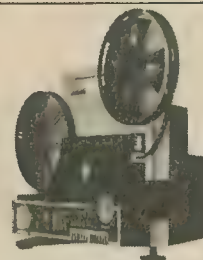
*1976 Southampton 1, Man. Utd. 0.....	200ft
*1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0.....	200ft
*1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0.....	200ft
*1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0.....	200ft
1973 Semi: Sunderland 2, Arsenal 1.....	50ft
1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0.....	100ft
*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0.....	100ft
*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1.....	200ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2.....	100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1.....	100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0.....	100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0.....	200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1.....	200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2.....	300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1.....	200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2.....	200ft
1963 Man. Utd. 3, Leicester 1.....	200ft
1962 Spurs 2, Burnley 0.....	100ft
1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0.....	100ft
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1.....	100ft
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0.....	100ft
1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1.....	100ft
1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3.....	100ft
1954 to 1956 also available.....	100ft

WORLD CUP

*1974 W. Germany 2, Holland 1.....	200ft
*1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2.....	200ft
*1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0.....	200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0.....	200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Bulgaria 1.....	200ft
*1974 Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0.....	200ft
*1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1.....	200ft
Above films also available in 400ft b/w and colour silent; 400ft b/w and colour sound.	
*1970 Brazil 4, Italy 1.....	200ft
*1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3.....	200ft
*1970 England 2, W. Germany 3.....	200ft
*1966 England 4, W. Germany 2.....	200ft & 400ft
Also colour sound 200ft	
1966 England 2, Portugal 1.....	200ft
1966 Hungary 3, Brazil 1.....	200ft
1966 Korea 3, Portugal 5.....	200ft
(1962, 1958 and 1954 WORLD CUPS also available)	

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EUROPEAN CUP

*1976 B. Munich 1, St. Etienne 0.....	200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w and colour sound	
*1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0.....	150ft
1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0.....	200ft
1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0.....	100ft
1970 Feyenoord 2, Celtic 1.....	200ft
1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1.....	200ft
1968 Man Utd 4, Benfica 1.....	200ft/400ft
1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final).....	200ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1.....	200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1.....	200ft
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1.....	200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3.....	200ft/400ft

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

1963 Spurs 5, At. Madrid 1.....	200ft
1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0.....	200ft

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

*1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1.....	200ft
*1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0.....	100ft
*1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1.....	100ft
1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0.....	100ft
1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1.....	200ft
1971 Spurs 2, Aston Villa 0.....	50ft
1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2.....	200ft

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1968 Newcastle 3, Man. City 4.....	200ft
------------------------------------	-------

INTERNATIONALS

1976 Scotland 2, England 1.....	200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w sound	
1975 England 5, Scotland 1.....	200ft
also 400ft b/w sound	
1975 Five-goal Super Mac.....	200ft
also 400ft b/w sound	
1969 England 4, Scotland 1.....	200ft
1967 Scotland 3, England 2.....	400ft
1953 Hungary 6, England 3.....	100ft
also 100ft b/w sound £5.05	

SPECIALS

*SIX-GOAL HURST.....	50ft
SIX-GOAL BEST.....	50ft

SCOTTISH CUP-FINALS

1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1.....	200ft/400ft
Also 400ft B/W sound	
*1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2.....	200ft
*1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1.....	100ft

£2.85 each
(includes postage and p.p.g.)

SOCCER RECORD ALBUMS

Commentary highlights edited from BBC RADIO broadcasts where available. Special containers used for postal despatch.

1976 FA CUP FINAL Super Saints!	1971 EURO CUP WINNERS Chelsea v. R. Madrid
1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Man. City v. Newcastle	1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Spurs v. Aston Villa
1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND Rangers v. Hearts	1970 FA CUP FINAL Chelsea's Cup
1975 F.A. CUP FINAL Hail To The Hammers!	1966/70 WORLD CUP Finals & Semi-Finals
1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Viva The Villa!	1968 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL Man. Utd. v. Benfica
1974 FA CUP FINAL Liverpool's Cup	CELTIC SOUVENIR Famous Celtic victories
1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Wonderful Wolves!	
1973 FA CUP FINAL Sunderland's Cup	
1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Spurs v. Norwich	
1972 FA CUP FINAL Leeds v. Arsenal	
1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Salute to Stoke!	
1971 FA CUP FINAL Arsenal v. Liverpool	



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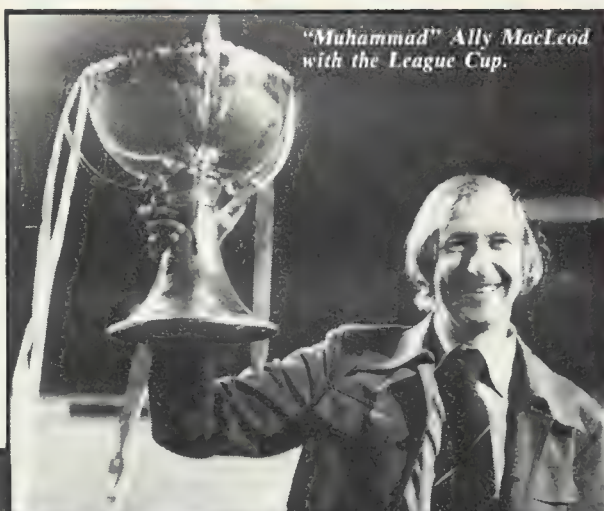
CLUB SPOT LIGHT

ABERDEEN

COMPILED BY JOHN PYKE

DATE FOUNDED:
1903

PRINCIPAL
HONOURS GAINED:
Scottish Division One
— 1955
Scottish Cup winners
— 1947, 1970
Scottish League Cup
winners — 1945-46,
1955-56, 1976-77



"Muhammad" Ally MacLeod
with the League Cup.



ABERDEEN'S shock home defeat by First Division Dundee in a Fourth Round replay of the Scottish Cup has been the only blemish so far on what has been a reasonably successful season for The Dons. The first major domestic trophy of the term landed in the Pittodrie boardroom — thanks to a late goal in extra-time by substitute Davie Robb that sunk Celtic 2-1 at Hampden Park and won Aberdeen the Scottish League Cup.

Although never really challenging the top two clubs in the Premier League, Aberdeen are neatly tucked in behind the leaders.

They are a side with vast experience. In goal they have Scottish cap Bobby Clark, while in striker Joe Harper they possess one of the finest scorers ever seen in Scottish football. A fact that will surprise Huddersfield and Everton fans, who never saw him produce his true form while at their clubs.

LEAGUE AND SCOTTISH CUP RECORD

(C — League Champions; P — Promoted; R — Relegated; W — Winners; F — Finalists; S/F — Semi-Finalists; Q/F — Quarter-Finalists)

SEASON	LEAGUE Division and Placing	SCOTTISH CUP Round Reached
1946-47	1- 3rd	W
1947-48	1-10th	3rd
1948-49	1-13th	1st
1949-50	1- 8th	Q/F
1950-51	1- 5th	Q/F
1951-52	1-11th	Q/F
1952-53	1-11th	F
1953-54	1- 9th	F
1954-55	1- 1st (C)	S/F
1955-56	1- 2nd	5th
1956-57	1- 6th	6th
1957-58	1-12th	Q/F
1958-59	1-13th	F
1959-60	1-15th	2nd
1960-61	1- 6th	3rd
1961-62	1-12th	3rd
1962-63	1- 6th	Q/F
1963-64	1- 9th	3rd
1964-65	1-12th	1st
1965-66	1- 8th	S/F
1966-67	1- 4th	F
1967-68	1- 5th	2nd
1968-69	1-15th	S/F
1969-70	1- 8th	W
1970-71	1- 2nd	S/F
1971-72	1- 2nd	Q/F
1972-73	1- 4th	Q/F
1973-74	1- 4th	3rd
1974-75	1- 5th	Q/F
1975-76	1- 7th	4th
1976-77	1- —	4th

EUROPEAN RECORD SINCE 1967-68

First season Aberdeen were involved
C — Cup-Winners' Cup; U —
U.E.F.A. or Fairs Cup; DNC
— Did Not Compete.

SEASON	ROUND REACHED
1967-68	2nd (C)
1968-69	2nd (U)
1969-70	DNC
1970-71	1st (C)
1971-72	2nd (U)
1972-73	1st (U)
1973-74	2nd (U)
1974-75	DNC
1975-76	DNC
1976-77	DNC

ABOVE . . . Action from the League Cup Final.
Celtic's Paul Wilson with Aberdeen's Drew Jarvie
and Arthur Graham.

BELOW . . . Long-serving Scottish
international 'keeper Bobby Clark.



BELOW . . . Goal-ace Joe Harper,
a favourite with the Pittodrie fans.



MOST FULL INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES:

Bobby Clark 17 caps for
Scotland.

HIGHEST LEAGUE GOALSCORER:

Season: 38 by Benny
Yorston, Division One, 1929-
30.

RECORD ATTENDANCE:

45,061 v Hearts, Scottish
Cup, Fourth Round, March
13th, 1954.

Continued on page 22

ABER



BACK ROW (left to right): Joe Smith, Neil Cooper, Ian Fleming, Derek Fraser, Jim Rodgers, Arthur Graham, Chic McLelland, Stuart Kennedy.

MIDDLE ROW: George Murray (coach), Billy Williamson (now Dundee United), Andy Watson, Ian Hair (now Montrose), Jim Crawford (now Fraserburgh), Ally McLean, Walker McCall (now Ayr United).

DEEN



John Gardiner, Doug Rougvie, Willie Garner, Ian Gibson, Davie Robb, Bonnie Coultis (physio)

FRONT ROW: George Campbell, Drew Jarvis, Douglas Brown, Joe Harper, Bobby Glennie, Willie Miller, Duncan Davidson, John McMaster, Alec McEishi, Jocky Scott, John Reilly, Dominic Sullivan, Teddy Scott Graham



Dom Sullivan.

PEN-PICTURES OF ABERDEEN FIRST TEAM SQUAD.

(L. App:— League Appearances; G:— Goals; S:— Substitutes. Figures are for the 1976-77 season up to the end of January, 1977.)

BOBBY CLARK: Goalkeeper signed from Queen's Park in 1965. His 17 full Scottish caps is a record for the club. Two Scottish Under-23 appearances and this season was an 'over age' player in the Under-21 team. Bobby has also made over 500 first-team appearances for The Dons. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.6. L. App:—18.

IAN FLEMING: Midfielder signed from Kilmarnock in 1975. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.8. L. App:— 7. G:— 3.

WILLIE GARNER: Central defender signed from Glasgow junior club Campsie Black Watch in 1975. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 13.9. L. App:— 19.

ARTHUR GRAHAM: Midfielder or winger signed from Cambuslang Rangers in 1970. Three Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.7½. Wt. 11.3. L. App:— 18.

JOE HARPER: Striker and one of the most prolific scorers in Scottish football. Signed from Hibernian for £50,000 in 1976. Two Scottish Under-23 appearances and three full caps. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 11.9. L. App:— 17. G:— 14.

DREW JARVIE: Striker or midfielder who cost £70,000 when signed from Airdrie in 1972. One Scottish Under-23 appearance and three full caps. Ht. 5.9½. Wt. 11.8. L. App:— 12 and 2 sub. G:— 7.

STUART KENNEDY: Defender signed in the summer of 1976 for £40,000 from Falkirk. Three Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.5. L. App:— 15. G:— 1.

CHIC McLELLAND: Defender signed from Eastercraigs in 1970. Two Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.9½. Wt. 10.3. L. App:— 12.

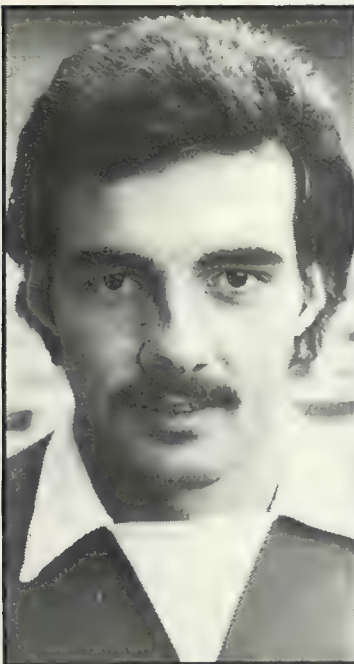
WILLIE MILLER: Defender and club captain signed from Eastercraigs in 1972. Nine Scottish Under-23 appearances and one full cap. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 12.2. L. App:— 19.

DAVIE ROBB: Midfielder signed from Newburgh in 1965. Three Scottish Under-23 appearances and five full caps. Scored Aberdeen's winning goal against Celtic this season to win the League Cup for The Dons. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 12.4. L. App:— 5 and 4 sub. G:— 1.

JOCKY SCOTT: Signed from Dundee in 1975. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.6. L. App:— 10 and 1 sub. G:— 2.

JIM SHIRRA: Midfielder signed from Falkirk in October, 1976. Ht.

EDDIE THOMSON: Defender signed from Hearts in 1973. Three Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 12.11. L. App:— 3 and 1 sub.



ABOVE...
Captain and sweeper Willie Miller, one of Scotland's top defenders.
LEFT... Davie Robb scored the goal that brought the League Cup to Aberdeen.
BELOW...
Former Hearts defender Eddie Thomson.

5.8. Wt. 10.7. L. App:— Aberdeen 6 and 4 sub.

JOE SMITH: Midfielder signed from St. Gregory's in 1969. One Scottish Under-23 appearance. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 12.7. L. App:— 18. G:— 1.

DOMINIC SULLIVAN: Midfielder or striker signed from Clyde in 1976. Two Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 10.12. L. App:— 18 and 1 sub. G:— 3.



LEAGUE FIXTURES 1976/77

SEPT	4	Hearts.....	H 2-2
	11	Ayr Utd.....	A 5-0
	18	Kilmarnock.....	H 2-0
	25	Hibernian.....	A 0-0
OCT	2	Partick T.....	A 2-2
	16	Rangers.....	A 0-1
	23	Celtic.....	H 2-1
	30	Dundee Utd.....	H 3-2
NOV	2	Motherwell.....	H 3-1
	10	Hearts.....	A 1-2
	20	Kilmarnock.....	A 2-1
	24	Ayr Utd.....	H 1-0
	27	Hibernian.....	H 1-0
DEC	26	Celtic.....	A 2-2
JAN	3	Hearts.....	H 4-1
	8	Ayr Utd.....	A 0-0
	12	Partick T.....	H 1-1
	19	Rangers.....	H 3-3
	22	Hibernian.....	A 0-0
FEB	5	Partick T.....	A 1-2
	7	Kilmarnock.....	H 2-0
	19	Rangers.....	A 0-1
MAR	5	Celtic.....	H 2-0
	12	Dundee Utd.....	H 0-1
	17	Dundee Utd.....	A 2-3
	19	Hearts.....	A 1-1
	23	Motherwell.....	H 2-1
	26	Ayr Utd.....	H 0-2
APR	2	Kilmarnock.....	A
	9	Hibernian.....	A
	13	Dundee Utd.....	A
	16	Partick T.....	H
	20	Celtic.....	A
	23	Motherwell.....	A
	30	Rangers.....	H

RECORD VICTORY:
13-0 v Peterhead, February 9th, 1923 (Scottish Cup).

RECORD DEFEAT:
2-9 v Dundee, April 17th, 1909.

MOST LEAGUE POINTS IN A SEASON:
61 in Division One, 1935-36.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CAREER:
Aberdeen have been ever-present in first the Scottish Division One and now the new Premier League.

SHOOT-IN AT STAN

BOOT CHECKS

"At Football League matches we see linesmen checking the studs of substitutes before they are allowed into the game," writes Ted Williams of Oxford. "Is this really necessary? It seems a silly practice to me. What is the official ruling?"

The official ruling on checking boots can be seen in Law 4 — players equipment Decision No. 3.

(3) In international matches, international competitions, international club competitions and friendly matches between clubs of different national associations, the referee, prior to the start of the game, shall inspect the players' footwear, and prevent any player whose footwear does not conform to the requirements of this Law from playing until such time as it does comply.

The rules of any competition may include a similar provision.

I have emphasised two important points of this decision. The first is that players' footwear shall be inspected before the game starts. The second is a competition may include, in its rules, a requirement for re-inspection of footwear.

The Football League arrange for the two linesmen to enter the teams' dressing rooms to carry out an inspection before the players go on to the field. Any adjustments which may be found necessary can be then made in good time.

However, an additional requirement applies to substitutes. Their footwear must be inspected again at the touchline.

I have some sympathy for Ted Williams' observations and have never seen the logic for this additional inspection. The argument in its favour is the substitute could have changed his footwear and could be wearing illegal or dangerous studs.

There could be some merit in this argument if the footwear of all players is inspected after the half-time interval! It could be possible that a substitute, introduced during the second-half, is the only player with legal footwear!

Regarding the necessity for inspection, the introduction of nylon studs, some years ago, increased the danger of worn studs and led to a tightening up of inspection procedures.

I recall entering the dressing-room of a famous European club team to find a huge sack of nylon studs, of various lengths, available to the players. Some studs resembled running spikes — definitely illegal, definitely dangerous.

HALF-TIME TEASER

Last week a Cup match was abandoned with five minutes to go and the score at 5-0. The referee awarded the match to the leading team. Was he correct?

Answer: No. The match must be replayed. The referee has no power to award a match to either team.

This week Alan Birkell of Colchester, provides our half-time teaser.

"If the referee sees two team-mates fighting inside their own penalty-area, when the ball is in play, should he award a penalty-kick after sending off the players?"

YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by STAN LOVER, Chairman of the London Referees' Society

1

A Cup-tie is drawn after 90 minutes. Extra-time of 15 minutes each half is required but you realise there will be insufficient daylight to complete. Do you (a) not start extra-time, (b) play ten minutes each half or (c) play on but abandon match when the light fails?



2

Running backwards, to head the ball, an attacker falls over an opponent who has intentionally obstructed by stooping in the path of the attacker. Is the correct award (a) a direct or (b) an indirect free-kick?



3

From a penalty-kick the ball strikes a post and runs along the goal-line to the other post and rebounds into play. The penalty-kicker follows up but shoots wide. Do you award (a) a goal, (b) a free-kick or (c) a goal-kick?



4

LEAVE IT!



A: When there are no opponents nearby a defender distracts a team-mate, who is about to play the ball, by shouting "leave it."



B: The team-mate then obstructs the defender in order to gain possession of the ball. You stop play and award an indirect free-kick. (Where is the problem?)

ANSWERS

1. Extra-time of 15 minutes each half must be attempted and the match abandoned if the light fails before completion (c). 2. The offence is tripping an opponent. By using the body — a direct free-kick award (a). 3. Award a free-kick (b) against the penalty-kicker for playing the ball twice from the spot-kick. 4. The problem is in B. It is not an offence to continue. In A no action is necessary because the shout was not intended to distract an opponent.

ALTHOUGH the football season is approaching its most exciting period, we had a glimpse of "summer" the other week as England met Australia in the Centenary Test Match.

A letter from reader Ian Hanley of Deal says: "As a soccer and cricket fan, I believe Tony Greig has developed into a first-class captain for our test side."

"Do you study leaders of other sports to help you in your own capacity?"

Not really, Ian. Many soccer skipers have influenced me and I've been lucky enough to play under the likes of Terry Venables and Frank McLintock.

I couldn't wish for better "teachers", but I can't say I take notice of other sportsmen in this respect.

Mind you, I, too, feel Greig is doing a great job and I watched as much of the match in Melbourne as I could.

While England did well, we mustn't forget we still lost even though there were personal triumphs.

It was good to see young Derek Randall making such an impact. Maybe the selectors will give more new faces a chance when the Aussies come here during the summer.

A Queens Park Rangers' follower, Peter Adamson from Ealing, was impressed with the way Derek Richardson deputised for Phil Parkes recently.

What do I think of our "new" goalkeeper, Peter asks?

Derek joined Rangers from Chelsea on a free transfer last summer and has worked very hard at his game.

I'm glad he had the opportunity to test himself and he came through it with flying colours.

I was particularly impressed at the way 20-year-old Derek commanded his area.

He was positive in everything he did. When he came out for centres, he always looked like reaching them.

If he couldn't catch the ball, he punched it clear.

Derek is very much like Phil in many ways... they're both well-built, but still agile.

It's a thankless task being understudy to a top 'keeper such as Phil.

I'm sure Derek has learned a lot this season, watching Phil closely and being involved in our European run.

The problem with the likes of Derek is, understandably, they don't want to be second choice forever.

It's a question of waiting for the



"I exchanged shirts with Rivelino in Los Angeles last summer."

"Soccer souvenirs I treasure"



my side of soccer
GERRY FRANCIS

right moment, but in the meantime Derek is progressing nicely.

Jennifer McCabe of Hull wants to know if I keep many soccer souvenirs and which is my most treasured.

Yes, Jenny, I like to have memories of events. I was hoping this season to have some more World Cup jerseys.

I'd planned to exchange with an opponent of Finland, Italy and Luxembourg while keeping my own jersey from one tie.

At the end of our World Cup qualifying ties, I'd then have six shirts — three of my own and three of opponents.

This obviously isn't possible now — I've still got one from the game in Finland, though!

I exchanged shirts with Brazil captain Roberto Rivelino in Los Angeles last summer. I now have two Brazil jerseys.

When I was seven or eight, my parents bought me a Brazil strip as a present and I was thrilled. I'm sure I still have it somewhere.

I keep all my England caps — 12 to-date — but one of my most treasured possessions is a videotape of the B.B.C. documentary which was shown around 18 months ago.

The camera crew followed me for

a month or so shortly after I'd been made captain of England.

It'll be nice to show in the future to remind me of my career.

A quick answer to Michael Reynolds of Southampton who asks: "Have you ever scored an own-goal?"

No — not yet anyway, touch wood. To the best of my knowledge, all my goals have been scored at the right end!

David Green, who lives in Torquay, writes: "In my opinion one of the most annoying aspects of soccer is when a defensive wall refuses to retreat the necessary ten yards."

"What is your opinion of this and what is the answer?"

Firstly, it's as well to point out that some sides PREFER the wall to be closer than ten yards.

They may have a free-kick routine where they chip the ball over a row of players, so the nearer the wall is the better.

However, it can be frustrating to watch as a referee struggles to get the eager defensive wall back.

The answer lies with the officials. Firstly, they should pace out ten steps from the ball, not stand by it and "shoo" the players back.

Having established where the kick should be taken from and

where the wall should be, he should warn the players that if they step forward they'll be booked.

He won't be popular if he shows the yellow card to four or five players, but if they've had a warning they can't complain.

It's surprising how many walls are broken these days. This is a soccer sin . . . the ball should NEVER get through a row of players.

Round, yes — over, yes — but through . . . never!

We at Rangers tend to use Don Masson to "form" our wall. He'll stand on the ball ensuring half of the goal is covered, while Phil Parkes takes the other half.

If the goalkeeper does this from his position, it's possible to be caught out by a quickly-taken free-kick.

Some players, especially younger ones, may be worried that they'll be hit by the ball and hurt.

At any level this shouldn't matter. You've got to be brave and if the ball does hit you . . . it probably means you've saved a goal. And that's all that matters.

One more question and it's from Denis Wilcox of Telford.

"Would I like to see a Continental side in the British Championship?"

Rugby Union has a similar set-up with France and it could be a boost for the competition to invite a different European country to compete as guests.

The main drawback is this would mean extra games in an already crowded fixture list.



I'm sure other countries would jump at the chance to play us and it would be valuable experience for ourselves.

It's certainly food for thought, although traditions are hard to change.

This Saturday (April 9th) we make the short journey to North London to play Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

I've long held the opinion that Spurs are easier to beat on their own ground.

They take more risks at home, whereas away they sit back and can be hard to break down.

Last season, Rangers won 3-0 at White Hart Lane yet drew 0-0 at Loftus Road.

This is typical of how games between us have gone recently.

Mind you, Spurs will be fighting for their First Division lives so it's sure to be an action-packed match.

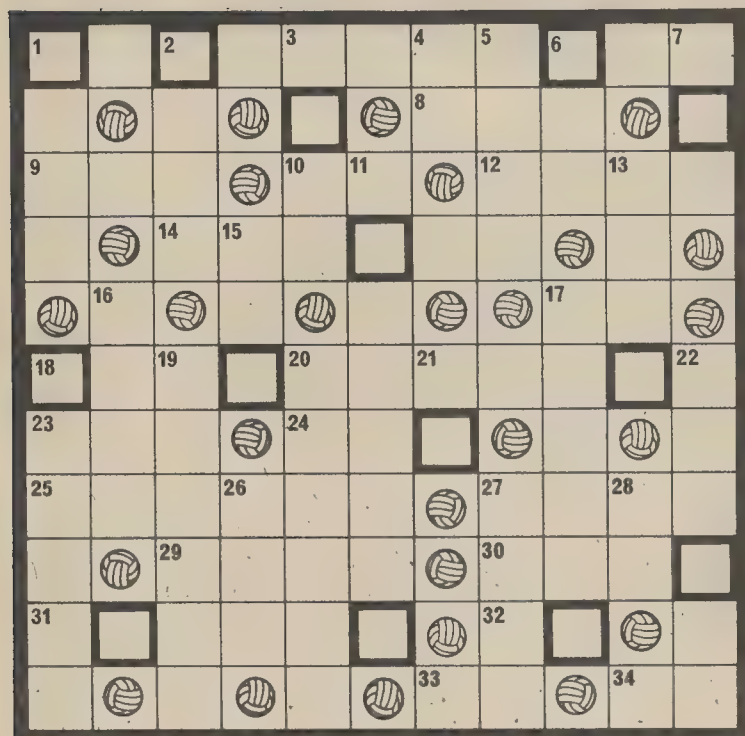
On Monday, the 11th, Coventry City come to Loftus Road and I have happy memories of their last visit.

I scored in our 4-1 victory, although The Sky Blues have virtually a different side now.

Until next week,

Garry Paine

Go for the Double



After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Aston Villa midfielder star. Answers on page 38.

ACROSS

- (1) They play at Carrow Road. (7 & 4).
- (8) Keith W—er of Leicester City.
- (9) — Hartford, Manchester City midfielder player.
- (10) —ient, from Leyton Stadium.
- (12) — Bloor, Stoke City defender.
- (14) — Park, home of Cardiff City.
- (17) Bob Curt— of Charlton.
- (18) Southampton and England striker. (4 & 7).
- (23) Derek H—s, Derby County striker.
- (24) Queens Park —gers.
- (25) Skilful — as a first-rate player has to be.
- (27) Old — Ground, Scunthorpe United.
- (29) Hart—pool Un—t— from The Victoria Ground.
- (30) —ick Thistle.
- (31) Sh—ff—d We—ne—d—y. Perfections from the missing letters!
- (32) Brian Ch—bers, Luton player.
- (33) Muir— Park, ground of St. Johnstone.
- (34) Ian Br—tto— of Chelsea.

DOWN:

- (1) Phil —, Liverpool full-back.
- (2) John —, Norwich City defender.
- (3) Newport County, The —sides.
- (4) Allan —unt—r, Ipswich and Northern Ireland defender.
- (5) Sin—i—B—k, Lincoln City's ground.
- (6) M—wall, Second Division club from The Den.
- (7) Garry Sta—l— (Chelsea). The word from the missing letters reversed.
- (11) John —, Wolves striker.
- (13) Brian —der—n of Leicester City.
- (15) John Giles is player-manager of the Republic of —land.
- (16) Gordon —, SHOOT columnist.
- (17) Billy —, Burnley player.
- (18) Mel —, Norwich City defender.
- (19) Andy —, Spurs defender.
- (20) —he—t—fi—d, The Spireites. Fisherman's baskets made from the missing letters.
- (21) —derlecht, famous club from Belgium.
- (22) Keith —, Burnley full-back.
- (26) Aston —il—, 1976-77 League Cup Finalists.
- (27) Atletico Madrid is a —ish club.
- (28) John Osb—ne, West Bromwich Albion 'keeper.

CHELSEA



BACK ROW (left-to-right): Tommy Langley, John Dempsey, Steve Wicks, Micky Droy, Sparrow, Ron Harris.

BILL GARNER, Steve Finnieston, Teddy Maybank (now Fulham), Gary Locke.

MIDDLE ROW: David Hay, Ken Swain, Garry Stanley, Ray Wilkins, Brian Bason, John Wilkins.

FRONT ROW: Ian Britton, John Phillips, Ray Lewington, Peter Bonetti, Graham

We would have preferred to publish a colour photo of Chelsea in response to the tremendous number of requests from readers. However, for this season the club's official photographer only was allowed to take the team photo, and unfortunately he shot it in black-and-white.

SHOOT!

CLUB SPOT LIGHT

CONSIDERING their team started the season under the burden of a massive debt, Chelsea supporters can be truly proud of their young lions.

After Chelsea had finished only 11th last season, doubts were raised over whether they had the players to win promotion back to the First Division. But these doubts were certainly not held by the staff at Stamford Bridge. Manager, and former full-back, Eddie McCreadie has moulded his team into one of the most professional outfits in the Second Division.

Under their young skipper, and England player, Ray Wilkins, new names are becoming household chants in The Shed. But let us not forget the old brigade. Former skipper Ron Harris must have worn the substitute shirt more than any other player in the League this season. Peter Bonetti may blame his grey hairs on keeping goal for Chelsea, but his reflexes are still razor-sharp.

COMPILED BY JOHN PYKE

Action from one of the best games at Stamford Bridge this season. A 3-3 draw against Wolves. Below, Chelsea skipper Ray Wilkins.



CHELSEA

PEN PICTURES of CHELSEA FIRST TEAM SQUAD

(L. App:— League Appearances; G:— Goals; S:— Substitutes: All records to the end of March, 1977.)

BRIAN BASON: Midfielder signed professional in September, 1972. Born Epsom. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.11. L. App:— 18 and 1 sub. G: 1.

PETER BONETTI: Goalkeeper signed professional in April, 1959. 12 England Under-23 appearances and seven full caps. Born Putney. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.12. L. App:— 544.

IAN BRITTON: Midfielder signed professional in July, 1971. Born Dundee. Ht. 5.5. Wt. 9.7. L. App:— 109 and 4 sub. G:— 19.

MICKY DROY: Central defender signed from Slough Town in October, 1970. Born Highbury. Ht. 6.4½. Wt. 15.5. L. App:— 106 and 2 sub.

STEVE FINNIESTON: Striker signed professional in December, 1971. Born Edinburgh. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.8. L. App:— Cardiff (on loan) 9, Chelsea 50. G:— Cardiff (on loan) 2, Chelsea 23.

BILL GARNER: Striker signed from Southend United for £80,000 in September, 1972. Born Leicester. Ht. 6.0½. Wt. 13.0. L. App:— Notts Co 2, Southend 101 and 1 sub, Chelsea 78 and 8 sub. G:— Southend 41, Chelsea 26.

RON HARRIS: Defender signed professional in November, 1961. Four England Under-23 appearances. Born Hackney. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 11.13. L. App:— 523 and 6 sub. G:— 10.

DAVID HAY: Defender or midfield player who cost Chelsea a club record fee of £225,000 when signed from Celtic in July, 1974. Three Scot-

MOST FULL INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES:
Eddie McCreadie, 23 caps for Scotland.

HIGHEST LEAGUE GOALSCORER:
Aggregate: Bobby Tambling 164 (1958-70)
Season: Jimmy Greaves 41, Division One, 1960-61.

MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES:
Peter Bonetti 544 (1959—)



tish Under-23 appearances and 27 full Scottish caps. Born Paisley. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.7. L. App:— Celtic 111 and 1 sub, Chelsea 92 and 1 sub. G:— Celtic 8, Chelsea 2.

RAY LEWINGTON: Midfielder signed professional in February, 1974. Born London. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 10.13. L. App:— 40 and 1 sub. G:— 1.

GARY LOCKE: Defender signed professional in July, 1971. Born Park Royal. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.5. L. App:— 144 and 1 sub. G:— 2.

JOHN PHILLIPS: Goalkeeper signed from Aston Villa in August, 1970, for £25,000. Four Welsh Under-23 appearances and three full caps. Born Shrewsbury. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 11.7. L. App:— Shrewsbury 51, Aston Villa 15, Chelsea 106.

JOHN SPARROW: Defender signed professional in June, 1974. Born Bethnal Green. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 12.0. L. App:— 30 and 3 sub. G:— 1.



Manager and a former player of Chelsea is Eddie McCreadie (left). Full-back Gary Locke (above)

GARRY STANLEY: Midfielder signed professional in March, 1971. Born Burton - on - Trent. Ht. 5.9½. Wt. 11.8. L. App:— 58. G:— 9.

KEN SWAIN: Striker signed professional in August, 1973, from Wycombe Wanderers. Born Liverpool. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.7. L. App:— 60 and 4 sub. G:— 18.

STEVE WICKS: Central defender signed professional in May, 1974. Born Reading. Ht. 6.2. Wt. 13.0. L. App:— 43 and 1 sub. G:— 3.

GRAHAM WILKINS: Defender and elder brother of Ray. Signed professional in July, 1972. Born Hayes. Ht. 5.6½. Wt. 10.2. L. App:— 45.

RAY WILKINS: Midfielder and club captain signed professional in October, 1973. One England Under-21 appearance, two England Under-23 and three full caps. Born Hillingdon. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 10.10. L. App:— 98 and 3 sub. G:— 18.

DATE FOUNDED: 1905.
PRINCIPAL HONOURS GAINED:
Division One Champions — 1955.
F.A. Cup winners — 1970.

Football League Cup winners — 1965.
European Cup-Winners' Cup winners — 1971.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CAREER:
Division Two — 1905-07;
Division One — 1907-10;
Division Two — 1910-12;
Division One — 1912-24;
Division Two — 1924-30;
Division One — 1930-62;
Division Two — 1962-63;
Division One — 1963-75;
Division Two — 1975 onwards.

FIRST LEAGUE MATCH:
(Home) September 11th, 1905. Beat Hull City 5-1, Division Two.

(Away) September 2nd, 1905. Lost to Stockport County 0-1, Division Two.

RECORD VICTORY:
13-0 v Jeunesse Hautcharage, European Cup-Winners' Cup, First Round, September 29th, 1971.

RECORD DEFEAT:
1-8 v Wolverhampton W., Division One, September 26th, 1953.



BLACKBURN DEFENDERS EXPECTED TO 'STRIKE'

BLACKBURN defender DEREK FAZACKERLEY (above) was an ever-present during his team's League programme last season. And the experience he gained in 42 matches then have convinced Derek that Rovers can still finish among the leaders in 1977 and then win promotion in 1978.

But as Fazackerley readily admits, Blackburn must prove they can score goals more consistently than they did in 1975-76, when they finished 15th in the table.

Derek says: "We realise our low scoring rate was a weakness, and must face up to the fact that a similar weakness this season has

affected our promotion chances. So, we are taking steps to bring about an improvement.

"This means anybody in the team is encouraged to score. For example, full-backs are expected to find the net, and the system has definite advantages — it makes us more difficult to pin down than if we depended only on one or two strikers.

"Also, our 6-1 win over Notts County back in October was a sign Blackburn can get the right sort of result."

Last season, Blackburn notched 27 goals at home and 18 away, which bears out Fazackerley's point that there is room for improvement in the scoring department — though he mentions Rovers are not alone in this respect.

"Other sides now are going in for more positive football, and there are less teams concentrating on defence than there were three or four years ago.

"In the Second Division, Wolves have impressed me as a side that

is not safety-conscious or cautious in its approach.

"Wolves, Luton, Bolton, Chelsea, Nottingham Forest and Blackpool are the teams who have been making the running in the Division, and I would love Blackburn to be up among them.

"In fact, my biggest ambition is to see us eventually in the First Division, and I was bitterly disappointed when we were relegated to the Third in 1970-71.

"But I got my greatest thrill when we won promotion back to Division Two in 1975 — after being with Blackburn for seven years I'm very attached to Ewood Park.

"Formerly, I played in the middle of the back-four, then when injuries hit us, moved to full-back. And as long as I'm playing alright, I don't mind whether it's at centre-back or full-back."

During Blackburn's stay in the Third Division, Derek found the play there could be more entertaining than in the higher Divisions.

"Teams were more liable to

make defensive mistakes, and this often led to more goals being scored, which the spectators enjoyed. But if collective skills are not as high as in the Second Division, there is individual skill in Division Three from former First Division players who are in the veteran stage.

"I believe individual skill in any Division, also the opportunity to use it for the benefit of the team, gives a player real satisfaction.

"Freedom to move around, too, is something I value very highly, and I find I can do this more at full-back than I could at centre-back.

"At Blackburn we use wingers — there is Gordon Taylor and David Wagstaffe, also Kevin Hird. But I still move forward to overlap and I enjoy doing it whenever I get the opportunity. It makes me more mobile and helps to put pressure on the opposition.

"From pressure we get goals — and if Blackburn can develop extra confidence from scoring them we must become a greatly improved side in the future."

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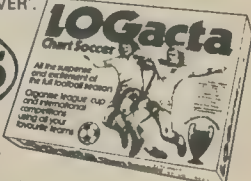
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Birmingham and England's Star striker writes in TIGER this week.

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TIGER

ON SALE SAT. APRIL 9



PETER'S DOING WELL FOR SAINTS



SIGNING for Southampton brought me a new lease of life. Before joining the club I was down in the dumps and had lost my enthusiasm — now, I'm more confident and look forward to every game."

The speaker was goalkeeper Peter Wells, who last December was transferred from Nottingham Forest to a Southampton side struggling in Division Two.

Now, Peter would like to take part in the revival of the team that slumped badly following their F.A. Cup Final win of last season.

"The signs were there that we could go places when we hammered Carlisle 6-0 away in January," explains Wells.

"Everybody felt they had been given a terrific lift, because of the way we played that day. The things we did at the back, in midfield and up-front all came off."

"For me, I believed my career would improve as soon as I went to The Dell. One of the first questions our manager, Lawrie McMenemy, asked me was what were my strong points and my weaknesses — and when I told him he said we would start straight away at eliminating the weak points."

"Apart from the encouragement from Mr McMenemy I also received help from the players."

"Our back-four men kept me right during a match, and asked me to shout at them when necessary, so we quickly achieved an understanding."

Peter Wells was snapped up by Nottingham Forest as soon as he left school, played in their Youth and reserve elevens, and made his first team debut at 19.

"My opening match for Forest last season, my debut for South-

ampton, are two soccer highlights I'll always remember — though there was a difference between the two.

"For Nottingham, I was a local boy turning out for his city team, but at Southampton I was someone who had cost a fee."

"The fact the club had paid money for me indicated they had confidence in me, and it boosted my morale."

"Previously, I had felt as I was born in Nottingham, there was possibly more pressure on me to succeed in front of the local fans at Forest — perhaps this applies to many players appearing for their home-town team and it can be a strain, because they think they will be the first to be criticised."

Unlucky 13

"At Nottingham, I experienced a disappointing period when I had two cartilage operations and lost my first team place. Maybe it is the sort of thing that happens to a fellow who signed for Forest on Friday, 13th!"

"When I arrived at Southampton, there was bad luck for another goalkeeper, Ian Turner, which presented me with the chance in the side. Ian was injured and I took his place."

The League lapses by Southampton after their Cup-success of 1976 have not altered Peter's belief Saints are a good side.

"It often happens that a team who wins the Cup struggles for a time in the League, and we went through this difficult phase in 1976-7. But I'm keen to play First Division football in the future, with Southampton, and I'm sure they can reach the top."

In October Birmingham City were in the top half of the First Division, but just before Christmas the annual slump started.

But all-rounder Kenny Burns dismisses suggestions of a slump as simply newspaper talk. He says: "Every team goes through a bad patch during the season and we went through ours."

After a dispute with the club, Kenny, playing in a striking role, was dropped and placed on the transfer list.

"I wanted away from the club,"

us so I was quite happy," said the fiery Scottish international who still likes to think he figures in Scotland's World Cup plans. "I played in the qualifying stages against Wales and I was in the squad before."

Blues have been branded as a crisis club, but again Kenny refutes the suggestion.

"We haven't noticed any crisis," he says. "We're enjoying the game. According to the papers, we're short of funds, but that doesn't worry us. We get paid to

KENNY BURNS TO SUCCEED WITH BLUES

do a job and we go out and do it. "People seem to forget we've been up at the top challenging. We're in the middle of the table now. Before we've always been struggling at the bottom."

"Despite all the recent rumours and headlines, morale at the club is really high. We enjoy our training and everything and that's what it's all about."

Kenny Burns loathes being on the losing side. "I want to be in a winning team going for big things."

That is the only answer you can expect from the tigerish Kenny Burns. At one time he was hot-headed and he admits it.

"But I've calmed down a lot," he says. "My bookings have gone down. I've got on a lot better with referees. I think they understand me and I understand them. Usually, I've been suspended at least once, but this season I haven't been banned and I haven't been in trouble with the referees."

Kenny joined Blues at the age of 17 from Glasgow Rangers. He's still on the transfer list and so far no offers have come in.

How does he see his future — is it with Blues? "Well, I don't know," said Kenny. "We'll just have to wait and see. But if I'm with Blues next season then I'll play my heart out for them."





BILLY BONDS
West Ham United

SHOOT!

FOCUS ON DEREK SPENCE BLACKPOOL

FULL NAME: Derek William Spence
BIRTHPLACE: Belfast
BIRTHDATE: January 18th, 1952
HEIGHT: 5ft 11ins
WEIGHT: 11st
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Crusaders, Oldham, Bury
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: None
CAR: Ford Capri 2000S
FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Manchester United
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Colin Todd
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My first international — Northern Ireland 1, Yugoslavia 0
BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring Ireland's equaliser against Holland in this season's World Cup-tie in Rotterdam
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing half of last season through injury
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Israel
FAVOURITE FOOD: My wife's cottage pie
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Squash, cars, watching any football
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Two-faced people
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Morecambe & Wise, Fawlty Towers, The Brothers
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart, Abba
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood, Kate O'Mara
BEST FRIEND: David Holt of Oldham
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My dad, for encouraging me to leave Belfast and play in England
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Injuries
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Ten caps for Northern Ireland
PERSONAL AMBITION: To become successful outside of football
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play in Division One with Blackpool
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A joiner
WHICH PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Queen and Prince Philip at Wembley



SHOOT!



Kilmarnock's Gordon Smith takes the ball past Aberdeen's Bobby Clark to score during their 2-1 Premier League win earlier this season. Despite good results like that, though, Killies are heading back to the First Division.

IT'S A big week this week for Celtic ... probably the most important of the season. This Wednesday (April 6) we faced Dundee in the Semi-Finals of the Scottish Cup and on Saturday (April 9) we take on Kilmarnock at Parkhead in the run-in for the Championship.

We have taken our club to a position which, quite honestly, I never thought we would reach this term. I saw it as a season of transition ... but as I write we are poised on the threshold of the big double.

And don't forget we were rather unlucky beaten Finalists in the League Cup before the turn of the year.

Saturday's clash is with the team I feel the most sympathy for. Kilmarnock are now certain of a boomerang return to the First Division ... and for football that really is quite sad. But they can still produce fighting displays, like beating Rangers 1-0 a couple of weeks ago.

Former Celtic player and coach Willie Fernie, boss of the Rugby Park Club, really is a man who knows the meaning of football entertainment and his club are a pleasure to watch in action.

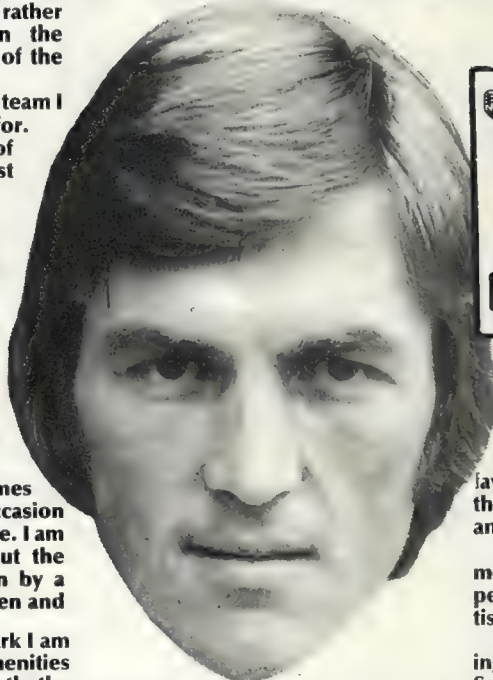
I have seen Killies a few times this season and on each occasion they were very unlucky to lose. I am not, of course, talking about the times they were well beaten by a certain team who play in green and white!

Every time I visit Rugby Park I am always delighted at the amenities that the ground boasts. Both the playing surface and the stadium itself are among the best in Scotland.

When you consider the reputation the club has as being one of the most hospitable in the land and the quality of the players on the staff — Gordon Smith, Jim Stewart, Ian McCulloch, Davy Provan — their relegation story is one of the saddest of the season.

Mind you, I have to confess I expect us to add to their worries on

'Why I'm sorry for Killies'



**TARTAN
TALK**

Kenny Dalglish

theory" with Dundee thanks to players like Gordon Strachan and goal-machine Billy Pirie.

And in Ally Donaldson he has another goalkeeper, who like Gordon Marshall of Arbroath and Jim Cruickshank of Hearts, is proving experience is the thing that counts when you play between the sticks.

I assume it was a tough Semi, but I am confident by the time you read this Celtic will have reached another Hampden Final.

Meanwhile, one man who can consider himself unlucky not to have faced former team-mate Tommy Gemmell is Bobby Lennox. The wee man is racing back to peak fitness after a leg-break and he should get a couple of first team games in before the end of the season.

At the moment he is playing the full-scale bounce games — old players versus the youngsters — at training. Bobby reckons he should still be in the young team!

Finally, a word about Alfie Conn who is settling down well at Parkhead. I think his performance in the 2-2 draw with Rangers at Ibrox proved that he is big enough and good enough to overcome the talk of the idiots who said no one could ever play for Rangers and Celtic.

Alfie did. And is doing it in style. See you in two weeks ...

Kenny Dalglish

Saturday. There is no room for sympathy when you are chasing League Championships.

Because of SHOOT'S printing schedules I had to complete this column before Wednesday's Semi-Final clash at Hampden. All I hope is Celtic have continued their successful Cup run with a good win against Dundee.

The Taysiders' chances of returning to the Premier League in one season are slim now, despite being

favourites at the beginning of it all, thanks to the incredible performances of Clydebank and St Mirren.

So they will have been all the more determined to put in a good performance against us in the Scottish Cup Semi-Final.

New spice was added to proceedings thanks to the sponsorship by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries which will net £2 million for the S.F.A. over the next three years.

The match also gave us the chance to renew our friendship with former Lisbon Lion Tommy Gemmell who scored that glorious winning goal in the 1967 European Cup Final.

But he is not the only class player in the Dens Park set-up. Davie White has always made the teams he has managed play good football and he carries on his "attractive

**NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
SKIPPER JOHN GREIG**

One of soccer's great mysteries... WHY IS ALAN ROUGH STILL PARTICK THISTLE'S 'KEEPER?

CELTIC manager Jock Stein shook his head slowly and said: "That was a superb display. I think he proved today he is definitely international class."

The man on the receiving end of that accolade from Stein was Partick Thistle's outstanding goalkeeper Alan Rough, who treated a large Parkhead crowd to a brilliant performance this season during a Premier League game.

He kept Celtic out until late into the second-half when a mighty free-kick from his former Firhill team-mate Ronnie Glavin was deflected past him.

Kenny Dalglish headed in a second to give Celtic another two valuable points in their surge towards the title, but the day undoubtedly belonged to Rough.

Thistle boss Bertie Auld said afterwards: "The best goalkeeper in Scotland? You must be joking... he's the best in Britain! There's no one to touch him when he hits top form."

Liverpool fans may disagree and say Ray Clemence is the tops in Britain, but Rough is maturing swiftly.

Consistency

It's a mystery to most fans that Rough has not been snapped up by a top club. He has proved his consistency in the Thistle side and in the international line-up.

He was superb in Prague last year although he could not prevent Scotland from losing 2-0 in a World Cup-tie. After that game Rough was praised from all quarters.

"I thought I might get a transfer following that performance," says the big blond 'keeper.

"Now I wonder if it really happened. Everyone was telling me I might as well get my bags packed and be ready to move.

"Unfortunately, it never worked out like that. Don't get me wrong, though. I'm happy with my game at Firhill but I must look to the future for financial security.

"There have been so many rumours about clubs being linked with me, but now I just forget these stories and get on with my football. I just try to do my best for Partick Thistle."

Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty stepped into the limelight recently to criticise Rough, the man he introduced to international football and once tried to buy while he was assistant-manager to Terry Neill at Hull.

"I would never buy a Scottish goalkeeper," said the Old Trafford boss. "They remind me of crocuses



Alan's form this season has prompted his manager Bertie Auld (above right) to describe him as "the best 'keeper in Britain."



— coming out for a ball about once a year!"

Docherty then admitted he thought Blackpool's George Wood and Coventry's Jim Blyth were better than any 'keeper in Scotland.

Thistle manager Auld wasn't very pleased with The Doc's remarks and he hit out: "I felt his comments were out of order. I think Rough is by far the best goalkeeper in the country.

"And Scotland has other fine goalkeepers such as Aberdeen's Bobby Clark, Kilmarnock's Jim Stewart and Dundee United's Hamish McAlpine. Anyway, what makes Tommy Docherty such a great judge of 'keepers?

"When Paddy Roche took over from Alex Stepney in the Manchester United goal a year or so ago he said Stepney's days were numbered, but it hasn't worked out like that."

So the saga of Alan Rough continues. He has had a brilliant season, but unfortunately seems to have an off-day every now and again when some club is rumoured to be prepared to buy him.

It happened when Fulham watched him against Dundee United at Firhill this term and he let in five goals.

It happened again against Hibs at Easter Road when he conceded a silly goal to Bobby Smith — a long range effort which he attempted to push over the bar but instead the ball dropped over his head and over the line with him making a vain attempt to retrieve the situation.

Rough is now determined to prove those lapses are out of the ordinary. And that's bad news for any opposing forward-line!



Dave Webb is a versatile character, strong in defence or attack. He's had several chances to show his skill between the sticks and once claimed a shut-out against Ipswich for Chelsea. Earlier, this season, Q.P.R. goalie Phil Parkes was injured at Arsenal so Webb took over. But even Dave the Brave couldn't stop The Gunners winning.



Millwall's Dave Donaldson has been forced to take over from Ray Goddard three times this season. Here he is in action against Chelsea.

STAND-IN' KEEPERS...



Few goalkeepers can claim to have saved a penalty from Newcastle's Tommy Craig... but Tony Currie can. The Leeds schemer went in goal when David Harvey was injured at St James' Park... and even stopped Craig's spot-kick. Just as well, Currie didn't take the advice of Joe Jordan — who's pointing for him to go the other way!

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New York Cosmos 'moving' to Europe

THE New York Cosmos are hoping to buy and operate a team in a European League as a "farm" to develop young American players.

Speaking from the Cosmos' Spring training camp in Bermuda, coach Gordon Bradley said negotiations to establish such a team could be finalised this year.

"We would like it to be in West Germany, the Netherlands or Yugoslavia," he said. "But it all depends on the rules and regulations of the

individual federations as we would want mostly Americans in the team.

"We couldn't, for instance, take over a club in Italy as their soccer federation wouldn't allow it under those conditions.

"We considered having a 'farm' team in the States but abandoned that idea because the players would only get 20 League games a season. In Europe they could play an awful lot more and against top-notch club opposition."



1978 WORLD CUP
FINAL STADIUM

SILLY IDEA

● My award for the Silliest Idea of the Year (so far) goes to the U.S.S.R. authorities.

They've come up with a plan whereby a referee can be "ordered off" by an on-looking assessor if he's having a bad game and replaced by a linesman.

Real's loyal fans

REAL MADRID are having a wretched season. They "celebrated" the club's 75th Anniversary by being knocked out of the Spanish Cup by lowly Hercules. The Alicante side won the first-leg 3-0, and two goals by Real captain Pirri weren't enough to overcome the deficit in the second-leg.

Incidentally, Real's fans are sticking by their team during their bad run — 90,000 turned up to watch the second-leg.

Meanwhile, the other Third Round ties went strictly according to the form book. 13 Division One teams and five from Division Two are through to the next round, though the odd number of 18 means that four of these survivors must play a preliminary match to bring the figure down to 16.

Spain is . . . er . . . different.

● Following the failure of Uruguay to qualify for the South American World Cup play-off group (they were pipped by Bolivia), team-boss Juan Hohberg resigned . . . just five months after taking the job.

Raul Betancour, who was in charge of the Youth side, has taken over temporarily.

Strange transfer system

UNLESS THE CLUBS and players' union speak up very strongly the Swiss F.A. will introduce, probably next year, a new transfer system which is likely to bring about rather more controversy than there is at the moment.

The system works as follows:

At the end of the player's contract he can choose to play elsewhere and agree terms with his "future" club without the signature of his old club. The old club will then fix a price, which, if the player is good, is likely to be exorbitant. The new club then asks a League ruling. A special committee formed by League committee members puts a price tag on the player.

The new club then has ten days to pay. If the club does not pay, the player can stay with the new club but the club will have eight points deducted in the League table.

● Tostao, the brilliant Brazil star of 1970, is now a doctor. The player was forced to retire because of eye trouble and has been studying medicine since . . . supporting himself with a sports shop.

● After being four points ahead of their Lisbon rivals, Sporting now trail Benfica by two points.

The Lions, as Sporting are known, seem to have squandered their advantage to win

the Portuguese League. And if they lose out to Benfica, their English manager Jimmy Hagan will be "leaving".

Benfica, incidentally, are also managed by an Englishman — John Mortimore.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE that recently devastated Bucharest, football isn't exactly the number-one priority in Rumania. The re-start of their League after the mid-winter break was delayed, and the national team's preparations for the vital World Cup game against Spain have been seriously hindered.

The match, scheduled for April 16th, almost certainly won't be played in Bucharest, even though the famous October 23rd Stadium was not damaged in the earthquake.

Timisoara and Craiova are the most likely venues for the match.

WHEN BELGIUM played Holland in a World Cup-tie on March 26th, the Belgian flag was not flown.

Instead, the Vlaamse Leeuw (Flemish Lion) was hoisted . . . the game was in Antwerp, which is a Flemish-speaking part of the country.

You may not realise how high feelings between the French- and Flemish-speaking people run in Belgium.

The Cup draw is announced in both languages — and recently Roger Petit, chairman of Standard Liege (French) had to apologise for talking about the "Flemish imperialism in our soccer."

● Inter Milan have made an odd-sounding offer to Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens. They want Barcelona's two Johans to wear the Inter shirt for just one exhibition match against Torino. The Italian club reckon that, apart from being a sell-out, the match would convince the authorities that it is time Italy's frontiers were re-opened to foreign players.

● Jaime Graca, the 34-year-old veteran of Portugal's 1966 World Cup side, has signed for Team Hawaii in the North American Soccer League.

Gunter Netzer (32) may be retiring this summer owing to nagging injuries.

● Rot-Weiss Essen, threatened with relegation from the Bundesliga, promised their players a bonus of £2,500 if they avoided the drop. Seems like this is working . . . in the first game the red and whites beat West German Champions Borussia Mönchengladbach 1-0.

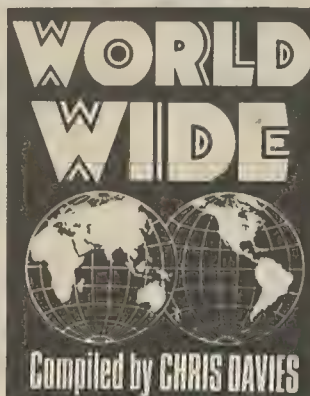
British stars Down Under

A BOBBY CHARLTON All Stars side to tour Australasia next summer will include both Charlton brothers, Manchester United goalkeeper Alex Stepney, Newcastle striker Alan Gowling, Liverpool's Ian Callaghan and Manchester United stars Lou Macari and Steve Coppell.

Also in the tour party will be Alan Ball (Southampton), former England defenders Terry Cooper (Middlesbrough) and Tommy Smith (Liverpool), former England and Leeds powerhouse Norman Hunter (Bristol City), striker Brian Kidd (Manchester City) and Wrexham's Welsh international Arfon Griffiths.

It will be Stepney's third trip "Down Under" and eight of the other players have made similar tours with club sides. The side will get £5,000 for each game played on tour.

A West German magazine got together with one from Czechoslovakia to select the world's best keepers: 1 — Maier (W. Germany); 2 — Viktor (Czech); 3 — Tomaszewski (Poland); 4 — Leao (Brazil); 5 — Clemence (England); 6 — Hellstrom (Sweden); 7 — Zoff (Italy); 8 — Croy (E. Germany); 9 — Iribar (Spain); 10 — Treytel (Holland). Five of these goalies are over 30.



Bayern Munich striker Gerd Muller (31) having treatment following his successful back operation

Breitner 'ruined'

REAL MADRID's Paul Breitner will be deciding his future very soon. The 25-year-old West German is keen to return to his country but most clubs think three years in Spain have "ruined" him.

"Paul has forgotten how to play man-to-man marking," said Georg Kessler of Hertha Berlin.

Bayern Munich are willing to buy Breitner back, but he's not overjoyed at the prospect.

He may decide to stay in Madrid where whatever the football . . . the pay is the best in Europe.

● Sepp Herberger, manager of the German team that won the 1954 World Cup, was 80 last month. There was a reunion of all the players who won the Cup, except left-back Kohlmeyer, who died two years ago.

SHOOT: Ajax Amsterdam and Bayern Munich have each won the European Cup three times in succession. As an ex-Ajax player now in West Germany with Hamburg SV, can you compare the two sides?

BLANKENBURG: The big difference was in the ability of Ajax to cope with injuries. If Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Müller are injured then Bayern have a lot of problems, but with Ajax at their best, even when Johan Cruyff was unfit, their pool of players could still play well and win.

SHOOT: Apart from the depth of talent Ajax had, what other differences stand out between the Ajax of your time and the present Bayern Munich team?

BLANKENBURG: The strength of Ajax was undoubtedly in attack. If our opponents scored against us, the Ajax forwards could always be counted on to score one more and win, no matter who they were playing. Ajax had no tactical corset and every player had more freedom to attack than any other top European team. With Bayern, everything hinges on the tandem between Beckenbauer and Müller, and without either man their effectiveness is reduced by fifty per cent.

In addition, Bayern play without real wingers, concentrating everything down the middle. So Ajax were a better all-round team than Bayern.

SHOOT: What in your opinion was the critical factor in the

INTERNATIONAL
STAR SPOT

HORST BLANKENBURG

Hamburg SV



decline of Ajax. The loss of Johan Cruyff or the departure of coach Rinus Michels?

BLANKENBURG: Rinus Michels was the mastermind who created Ajax. When he left the team just ticked over as before because he had done his job so well. But then the loss of Cruyff, Neeskens, Rep and Haan who all went abroad, and of course the retirement of Piet Keizer was too much. No club in the world could replace so many outstanding players.

SHOOT: Do you think Bayern could have made it four in a row in the European Cup or do you think they were in decline, even without the injury to Gerd Müller's back?

BLANKENBURG: Bayern have always given that extra bit of importance to the European Cup, always super fit and in top gear for all their games. But they have hit a bad patch since Müller's injury and Dynamo Kiev were worthy winners overall. Anything can happen now and each of the last four would make an honourable Champion.

SHOOT: Looking at things as an outsider it appears the manager of Ajax was a more important figure than the boss of Bayern. Do you think this is generally true?

BLANKENBURG: Rinus Michels was very important. The Ajax players always had more freedom, on the field and off it. But the Germans are I think something like the English professionals with rigid ideas. The difference in mentality was that in Holland

'Ajax better than



LEFT A candid picture of Franz Beckenbauer at Bayern Munich's 1976 European Cup celebration dinner. Even Beckenbauer couldn't prevent Dynamo Kiev ending Bayern's three-year Euro reign.

BELOW A typical goal by Gerd Müller, against Banik Ostrava in the European Cup last November. When Der Bomber was out of action with a back injury recently Bayern's attack was very goal-shy.



there was no control at all on the players' personal lives, but in Germany, bed-time is 10 o'clock and the trainer lays down other strict rules in the private sphere. The Germans are too strict, too organised, leaving too little to the individual.

SHOOT: You seemed to be unhappy as a German playing with Ajax after Michels left, and you were once quoted as saying of an Ajax manager "I have had a nose



LEFT . . . Johan Cruyff left a big gap in the Ajax side when he left Amsterdam for Barcelona. Several other Ajax stars, including Blankenburg, joined other clubs around the same time.

always had fierce opposition from Feyenoord in Holland so it was

never easier to win the Championship in Holland. Bayern had a lot of problems in the German Championship and seemed to concentrate on the European Cup. At any rate they always seemed to be at their peak when these games came round.

SHOOT: Now you have left Ajax for Hamburg SV have you settled down again? And is the football as good in Germany as it was in Holland?

BLANKENBURG: Everything in Hamburg is fine and my new team is playing good football and I enjoy it. But I was so happy in the first years in Amsterdam that I could never be so happy again. I'll never forget the time I had in Holland and I still have many friends there.

SHOOT: English people have always said their League is the best in the world, and their First Division the most difficult to win. Do you think this is still true, and how does West Germany's Bundesliga compare with the English game?

BLANKENBURG: I don't want to be impolite — but the English League is not the best any more. It was once, but it was based on an old system. England has lost her

first place in Europe and if they don't change their ways they will lose more and more ground. The English had problems when new ideas were introduced into football and now the West German Bundesliga is better and stronger than the English. Maybe even the First Divisions in Spain and Italy are better too.

SHOOT: What do you think of the overall development of football now? Is it getting better and which countries are improving most?

BLANKENBURG: The game is always evolving, and improving in different countries as they produce good individual players. At the moment I think the East European countries are developing and improving fastest — headed by Czechoslovakia. And, a compliment to another little country, I think the national team in Belgium and Belgium's top clubs are very good now and still improving.

SHOOT: How do you read the result of the recent England-Holland game at Wembley? Are Holland still an outstanding team or are England declining?

BLANKENBURG: Quite apart from the result I think Holland at their best are perhaps an even better team than they were in the 1974 World Cup Finals. As long as Cruyff and Neeskens play for the Dutch national team Holland will remain one of the strongest in the world. In my opinion, the English must change their style of play and their national team if they don't want to lose contact with the world's top teams. This was highlighted against the Dutch and in other recent performances.

Bayern'

full of him." What was it all about?

BLANKENBURG: When Michels left the first time, the Rumanian Stefan Kovacs took over and he didn't interfere. He saw we had a good team, a good playing system and he left the players free to do what they were best at. If anything, Kovacs gave the players even more freedom than Michels.

Then Hans Kraay came to Ajax and there was nothing but trouble. None of the players could understand him and he made all the players nervous. One example will show why. This was of course after Cruyff had gone, but Arno Steffenhagen, one of our central strikers, was offered to six different clubs in a period of two weeks by Kraay. Nobody could feel secure and play with confidence and he seemed unable to communicate with the players in a way they could understand.

SHOOT: Ajax always seemed to go for the League and European Cup double in their peak days while Bayern Munich appeared to concentrate on the European Cup. Would you say that is true — and was it easier to do this in Holland?

BLANKENBURG: No doubt about it, Ajax used to play each game as it came, always trying to win the League, always trying to keep the European Cup. We



BELOW . . . Piet Keizer, the great Ajax left-winger, holds aloft the European Cup after the Amsterdammers' 1972 victory over Inter of Milan in Rotterdam.

SCORE A 100 SOCCER CENTURY

Tackle this quiz, section by section, checking your answers with those printed upside down beneath each section. Award yourself four points for each correct answer. Then add up your scores and see how close you are to the maximum total of 100.

PUZZLE PICTURE

The picture right was taken during this world famous star's early career. See if you can answer the questions about him.

1. Can you identify him?
2. Which South American country does he play for?
3. Does he play domestic football in his native country?
4. He has scored many vital goals during his career. Has he ever done so in a World Cup Final?
5. He helped his country finish third or fourth in the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany?



ANSWERS:

1. Roberto Rivellino. 2. Brazil. 3. Yes, with Fluminense. 4. No. 5. Fourth.

ANSWERS:

1. Bob Latchford. 2. 2-0. 3. 0-0. 4. Right-foot shot. 5. Molineux, home of Wolves.

CHECK YOUR RATING

88-100... Excellent. 80-86... Very Good.
68-78... Good. 52-66... Average. Under
50... Never mind try again next week.

YOUR OVERALL TOTAL

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

Across: (1) Norwich City. (8) Ell. (9) Asa. (10) Or. (12) Alan. (14) Ninian. (17) Is. (18) Mike Channon. (23) Ale. (24) Ran. (25) Clever. (27) Show. (29) Lied. (30) Part. (31) Ideals. (32) Am. (33) On. (34) In.
Down: (1) Neal. (2) Ryan. (3) Iron. (4) He. (5) Clan. (6) Ill. (7) Yen. (11) Richards. (13) Also. (15) Ire. (16) Hill. (17) Ingham. (18) Machin. (19) Keeley. (20) Creels. (21) An. (22) Newton. (26) Via. (27) Span. (28) Or.

Jumbled Name: DENNIS MORTIMER

SOCCER MANAGERS

The managers below played League soccer for one club during their careers. Can you name their only sides?

1. Bob Paisley
2. Jimmy Armfield
3. Jack Charlton
4. Harry Griffiths
5. Gordon Jago

ANSWERS:

1. Liverpool. 2. Blackpool. 3. Leeds. 4. Swansea. 5. Charlton.

WINNING GOALS

On Saturday, March 19th, the players listed scored winning goals for their clubs. Can you name the sides they were playing for when they hit their winners?

1. Chris Jones
2. Gary Collier
3. Colin Waldron
4. Ron Fletcher
5. Steve Perrin (left)

ANSWERS:

1. Spurs. 2. Bristol City. 3. Sunderland. 4. Luton. 5. Crystal Palace.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Kevin Keegan began his League career with Southport.
2. Oldham Athletic play their Second Division games at Boundary Park.
3. Paul Mariner's three goals against West Ham recently was his first hat-trick for the club?
4. Queen's Park are nicknamed The Stripes?
5. Walter Winterbottom was in charge of England before Sir Alf Ramsey took over in 1963.

ANSWERS:

1. False — he began with Scunthorpe. 2. True. 3. True. 4. False — they are nicknamed Spiders. 5. True.

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WEEK... NEXT WEEK

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In full colour: Celtic team group, Howard Kendall (Birmingham), Stuart Boam (Middlesbrough), Mike Channon (Southampton), Gerry Daly (Derby) and Focus on Johnny Hollins (Q.P.R.).

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One of the shining stars in Sunderland's dramatic fight to avoid relegation after being poised on the brink of Division Two is Gary Rowell. And even he finds the Roker club's revival hard to believe.

"It's just fantastic," confesses Gary. "Suddenly, everything changed for us, the results were right, and the mood of the team was completely altered. Compared to the pre-Christmas spell it seems to be a different world."

A glance at the League table at the halfway stage of the season only confirms Rowell's view — stranded at the wrong end of Division One and in a seemingly hopeless position, the Wearsiders rallied early in 1977 to bring about an amazing transformation.

A sizzling period in February and early March brought Sunderland ten points out of a possible 12 — plus a total of 17 goals which were hammered home in four matches at Roker.

What made this scoring spree unbelievable was the fact the Wearsiders had previously suffered a disastrous ten match spell in the League during which they failed to score a single goal.

"That was a terribly depressing part of the season," recalls Gary. "After a match we would just sit there wondering when it would end — our confidence was almost shattered."

"Then it happened. Mel Holder scored for us against Bristol City to put an end to the no-goal streak. From there our morale zoomed and we went on to the field in following games determined to lift ourselves away from the bottom."

The fight-back not only restored the spirits of the players — the Sunderland fans once again began

GARY ROWELL — one of the super youngsters fighting to SAVE SUNDERLAND

to believe in their team. The famous Roker roar, which had shrunk to a dismal whisper, returned in full volume.

"I was delighted for the fans," says Rowell. "Gates had started to drop, but recovered to the earlier average of 35,000 at Roker."

But the hardest thing to understand for the soccer-mad folk of the North-East has been the unexpected emergence of Sunderland as a points-gathering, goal-getting side. What happened?

Opinions have varied from the discovery of a magic formula by Roker manager Jimmy Adamson to the impact of a particular player on his colleagues.

But whatever the views put forward, there is popular agreement that a large chunk of credit must go to the three North-East lads who are making an early bid for fame — Gary Rowell, Shaun Elliott and Kevin Arnott.

The three youngsters have not only demonstrated enthusiasm and the will-to-win spirit in their play — their talent has been made obvious to England manager Don Revie as well as the local fans.

The reward for Rowell and Elliott has been the selection of the Sunderland pair for England Under-21 duty, something which has combined with the Roker recovery to make this already a memorable season for Gary.

"Mr Adamson broke the news about the Under-21 squad to me at our ground," says Rowell. "It was something I hadn't bargained for."

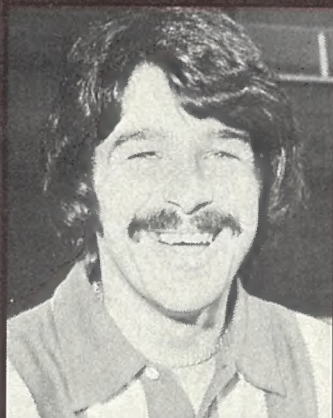
For 19-year-old Gary, the international recognition has come after being blooded in the first team by ex-Sunderland boss Bob Stokoe a year ago, and it underlines how quickly he has made his mark. Though he admits there were matches when he struggled.

"It happened when I was moved to the left side of the field, but I have no problems now. My biggest ambition is for Sunderland to do as well as possible."

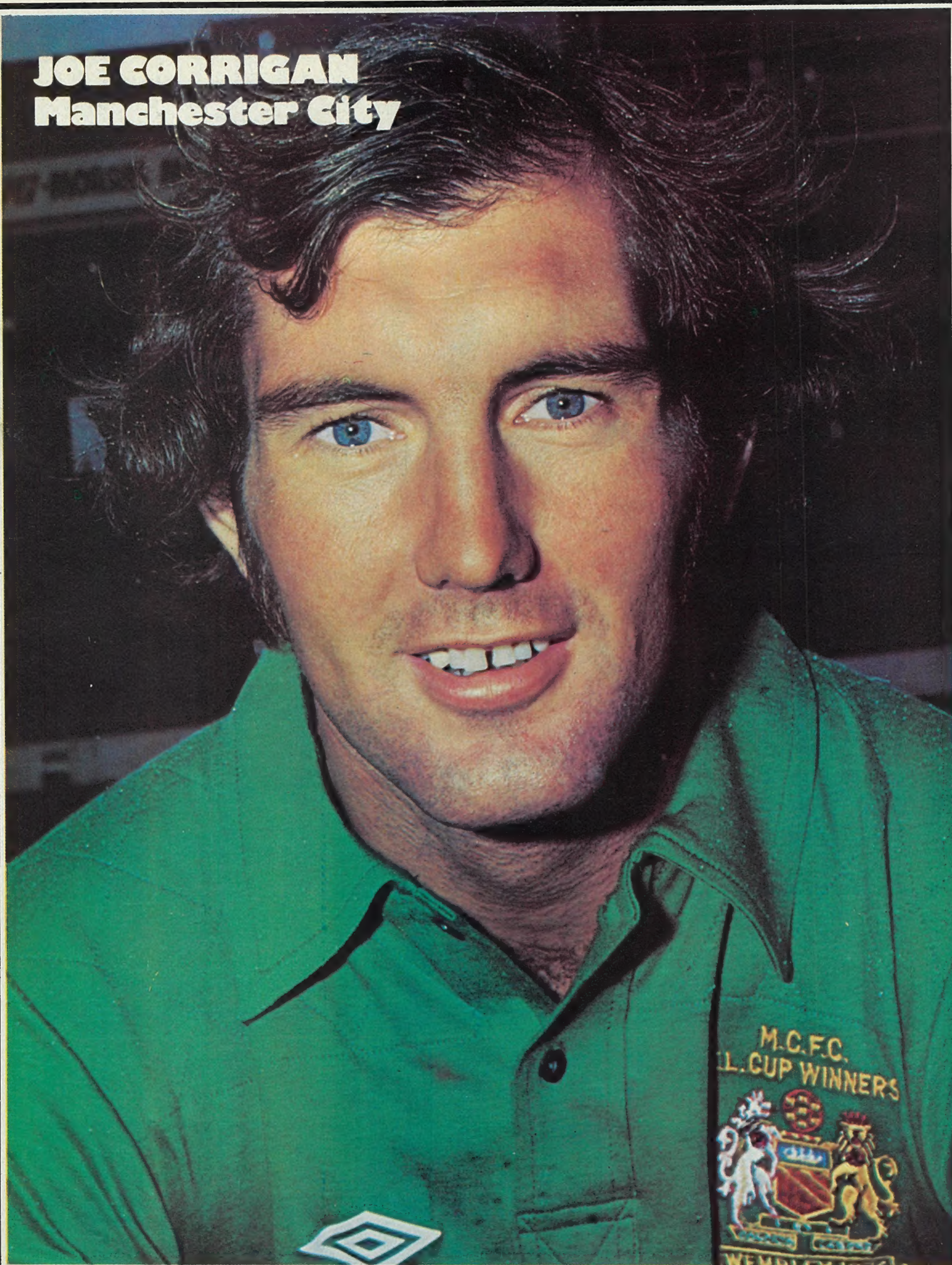
"At the moment, the players don't talk a lot about avoiding relegation. The team-spirit is great, and Bobby Kerr has helped me tremendously."

"I enjoy playing an attacking game, but I remember I also have defensive responsibilities in my midfield role. And if I can score a goal or two then I'm really happy."

Bobby Kerr (right) has been a big influence on young Gary's career to date. After failing to score in ten League games, Sunderland then hammered 17 in four home matches, including six against West Ham. Below, striker Bob Lee just misses with this header.



JOE CORRIGAN
Manchester City



SHOOT!